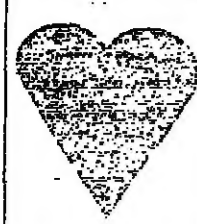


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THE TIMES



No. 65,189

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13 1995

Cool letter rebuts EU borders claim

Major fights back after minister quits

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR moved swiftly yesterday to prevent further Tory divisions over Europe by dismissing a minister's resignation claim that he was failing to tackle a potential immigration crisis.

The Prime Minister and senior Cabinet colleagues attempted to isolate Charles Wardle, who resigned as industry minister at the weekend and issued a warning that Britain's "quality of life is jeopardised" by European immigration laws.

Mr Wardle's accusation that Mr Major had "ruined" the immigration issue threatened to deepen Conservative unease over Europe. He called yesterday for firm leadership to fight off the threat posed by legal changes in Brussels. The resignation came after months of meetings between Mr Wardle and the Prime Minister, in which Mr Major had been warned that the changes threatened to erode British immigration controls.

In his resignation letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Wardle, a former immigration minister, said there was "a fundamental difference of opinion" between them. "I



Wardle: "EU is risking Britain's quality of life"

have always been in favour of a Europe in which we can compete and trade without hindrance, but I cannot stand by while our quality of life is jeopardised," he wrote.

He denied claims made by some government insiders that he had become disenchanted with his junior post as industry minister and was looking for an issue on which to leave the Government.

His resignation came as ministers were trying to stop summering Cabinet disagreements over a single currency flaring up into open warfare.

Cabinet ministers conceded that there were differences of opinion over the direction Britain should take on monetary union beyond 1997.

William Cash, one of the leading Tory Euro-sceptics, seized on Mr Wardle's resignation as support for their cause. He congratulated the MP for Bexhill and Battle for being "the first minister I can think of who has actually resigned on principle over this question of Europe".

Mr Major insisted in his letter of reply to Mr Wardle that "the Government are absolutely clear that the right to maintain immigration controls at points of entry should be maintained". The Prime Minister's language was, however, noticeably cooler than that used in reply to other ministers who have resigned in the last three years.

"We believe this is an essential safeguard, not only against illegal immigration, but also to combat transnational crime and terrorism. Entry control makes sense for Britain, as an island state, and we have no intention of giving it up," he wrote.

Mr Wardle has pressed the Government to make the issue of immigration a key part of negotiations at next year's inter-governmental conference on the future of Europe. Although Margaret Thatcher secured a declaration in 1985 that Britain would not be bound by European Union changes enabling member states to open up internal frontiers, Mr Wardle claims the Government is aware that legally the declaration is meaningless.

Most EU members have agreed to open up their borders with neighbouring European states, but they insist that tight checking at external borders will ensure it is no easier for illegal immigrants to enter.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, also moved to sideline Mr Wardle. "I regret that Charles Wardle has had to resign but I don't think the reasons he has given are at the heart of the European debate," he said. "We have absolutely no intention of dismantling frontier controls."

Mr Howard also tried to counter remarks by Lord Tebbit, the hard-line Euro-sceptic, who claimed in a speech to the Young Conservatives that the EU was forcing the British into lawlessness. He called on animal rights activists to throw bottles and bricks at Belgian police to show their disgust over the European deal.

Mr Howard said: "He [Lord Tebbit] has always had the gift for the dramatic phrase, and he was using that gift to its fullest extent yesterday."

MPs' letters, page 2
Tebbit's warning, page 4
Leading article and letters, page 19

Riddell on Monday, page 18



A mother and daughter in Dresden's Hofkirche yesterday pray for the estimated 25,000 victims of the Allied bombing of the city in February 1945

Protests mar requiem for Dresden dead

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN DRESDEN AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE solemn ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the British and American bombing raids on Dresden were disrupted yesterday when ten young left-wing demonstrators raced up to the altar and unfurled a banner of protest.

One demonstrator in the Hofkirche Roman Catholic cathedral yelled "Germans were the criminals, not the victims" as the others threw leaflets that said the event was an insult to the Jews murdered at Auschwitz.

The protest was one of a number of disturbances to

mar the anniversary. A left-wing group had sprayed the city's memorial stone with red paint, and several activists were detained on Saturday. The stone is the focus of one event today as senior officers from Britain, the United States and Germany gather in the city's main cemetery to pay tribute to the dead.

Among those held on Saturday was Günter Deckert, the chairman of the far-right National Party of Germany, who was arrested shortly before he was due to attend an anti-British protest in Dresden. Thousands of police were deployed to stop the planned neo-Nazi demonstration. Herr Deckert - who was recently taken to court for

publicly denying the existence of the Holocaust - is being held in protective custody until the anniversary commemorations are over.

Last night calm was restored as 129 bells from 46 churches rang out to mark the beginning of the anniversary. The *Dresden Bell Requiem* - composed by Johannes Wallmann - and a performance of the Mozart *Requiem* conducted by Sir Yehudi Menuhin gave an appropriately solemn stamp to the proceedings.

A group calling itself the "Co-ordination Bureau of Anti-national Cells" is preparing protests against the anniversary commemoration today. The group's organisers say that the authorities are

trying to create a "cult of victimhood" and that treating Dresden as a site of martyrdom will feed "new German militaristic megalomania".

The Dresden city elders are determined to avoid the tense situation in 1992 when the Queen was booed as she toured the city. The Duke of Kent, the Queen's representative at the ceremony, will make a short speech in German, but will be protected from the crowd. So, too, will the Chief of Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge.

Helmuth Kohl, the German Chancellor, had no problems yesterday as he attended the Hofkirche service. Herr Kohl has been something of a hero here since December 1989

when he gave a passionate speech making it clear that German unification would be quick and generous.

The anniversary is to be marked not only by concerts, church services and discussion meetings, also by speeches from Nick Nolan, the Mayor of Coventry, and Herbert Wagner, the Mayor of Dresden.

Many regard the bombing raids, in which 25,000 people died and 12,000 buildings were destroyed, as a serious war crime but Herr Wagner will underline the fact that the city was bombed at the end of a war started by the Germans.

Raids remembered, page 8
Leading article, page 19

Puzzle remains over resignation

FEW ministers resign on issues of policy or principle, and when they do there is usually a story of personal frustration and friction behind their decision. So it was with Michael Heseltine in January 1986, Geoffrey Howe in November 1990, and yesterday, on a far lesser scale, with Charles Wardle.

The tone of John Major's reply to his resignation letter, and of Michael Howard's comments on the radio, show a degree of puzzlement and dead annoyance with Mr Wardle.

There is no doubt about the sincerity of his views on the immigration issue, which he has been pursuing for 15 months, including the seven months since he moved from the Home Office to the Department of Trade and Industry. Few at Westminster believe, however, that Mr Wardle would have pushed his worries about Brussels's intervention over British border controls to the point of resignation unless he had other worries. Few junior ministers campaign so vigorously on issues for which they no longer have direct respon-



RIDDELL ON POLITICS

sibility. Even Euro-sceptics, who are concerned about immigration policy, could not understand the resignation since Mr Howard, the Home Secretary, is a vigorous defender of the present controls against any changes imposed by Europe.

Those who have spoken to Mr Wardle recently believe he has been frustrated in office. There have been widespread stories about clashes with civil servants when he was at the Home Office as well as tensions at the trade department. He had to wait nine years before entering the Government in 1992 and, like other newcomers of that time, he might have expected promotion from under-secretary to minister of state level last July; instead he was moved sideways.

Although Mr Wardle's resignation was highly unusual, other junior ministers are also frustrated with their position and prospects. Many are worried and discontented about the direction of the Government and its divisions, as well as their own prospects. They are earning much less than they would in private industry yet have little influence over departmental, let alone government policy.

Riddell on Monday, page 18

Baby snatch case charge

A 39-year-old woman will appear before magistrates in Prestatyn, Cwyd, today charged with the abduction of baby Lydia Owens, who was reunited with her parents at the weekend after being taken from the Glan Cwyd hospital. Three men were released without charge. Page 3

Emergency talks at merchant bank

The directors of SG Warburg, the merchant bank, were called to an emergency meeting to prevent the defection of key staff and convince staff and shareholders that it has a viable strategy for the future. Page 40

Devolution costs

Ian Lang, the Secretary of State for Scotland, claimed yesterday that the Scottish parliament promised by the Labour Party could cost Scots an extra 19p on income tax. Page 2

Land deal row as girls' school closes

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND MARIANNE DARCH

THE sudden closure of a leading girls' public school in East Sussex is to be reported to the Charity Commission amid allegations by angry parents of mismanagement by the educational trust which owns it.

Parents of the 250 boarders and day pupils at Charters Ancaster School in Bexhill-on-Sea booted off the stage the chairman of the governors and trust representatives at a noisy meeting at the weekend for which they had received only 48 hours' notice. Teachers joined them in condemning the closure, which is linked to a multi-million land deal.

Ivor Brampton, one of the governors, who is a Bexhill Tory councillor and deputy lieutenant of Sussex, condemned the closure last night. "That land is worth £4 million. That's what it's about," he said. "The closure has been presented as a *fait accompli*. I feel insulted and aggrieved

that I was not told. The parents and girls are very upset." At the meeting he refused to take his seat on the platform and branded the closure "disgraceful". The closure of the 90-year-old school at the end of next term followed yesterday accusations of asset-stripping against the Girls Public Day Schools Trust, a registered charity which owns 26 schools. Charters-Ancaster was an amalgamation in 1986 of two schools - Ancaster House and Charters Towers - and was acquired by the trust two years later.

A parent-teachers action committee has been formed and legal advice will be taken over possible High Court action in which an injunction may be sought to freeze the proposed sale of the prime 11-acre site a mile from the school.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Education, page 37

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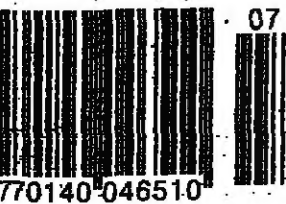
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Follett: Labour member of millionaires' club

By JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE author Ken Follett, who is hoping to build a sunbathing hideaway in one of the world's most exclusive islands, has encountered trouble in paradise.

Along with Lord Sainsbury, the supermarket tycoon, and a sprinkling of fellow millionaires, Mr Follett is suing the developers of the 300-acre Jumby Bay Club, a resort off the Antiguan coast. Jumby Bay Island is best known as the holiday destination for celebrities such as George Harrison, Meryl Streep, Liam Neeson and Barbara Taylor Bradford. At \$1,000 (£640) a night, guests at

island's five-star hotel can usually avoid rubbing shoulders with too many Labour Party members; they make an exception for Mr Follett, a friend to Labour leaders and a man who played an important role in Tony Blair's campaign for the Labour leadership.

Unfortunately, the club has proved a little too exclusive. A total of 71 jet-setters paid \$75,000 each to join it and thereby earn the right to build multi-million-dollar island homes. But, 13 years after the scheme started, the developers have been unable to fill the 575 available places. They want to close the club, and the well-heeled natives are restless.

Peter Swann, a software businessman, has sued on behalf of all the club's

members. The developers are two brothers from Long Island, New York, John and Harry Mariani, who are among America's largest wine-importers. Marvin Robinson, another Jumby member, who is the members' lawyer, said the action was aimed at forcing the Mariani brothers to keep the club open. "The purpose is to force the developers to carry out the concept of the operative documents, which is to turn the resort into a members-only club," he said. "They are trying to close the club and deny the benefits the members have obtained by the investment they have made."

The resort is so exclusive that it is said once to have blackballed the Princess of

Continued on page 2, col 4

'I cannot stand by while our quality of life is jeopardised by a provision we have failed to tackle'

THIS is the full text of the resignation letter sent to the Prime Minister by the Trade Minister Charles Wardle:

"Dear Prime Minister, Following my recent discussion with Douglas Hurd and my earlier exchanges with you, it is clear that there is a fundamental difference of opinion between us about the need to put the derogation from Article 7a openly on the forthcoming inter-governmental

WARDLE'S RESIGNATION

tal conference agenda. Under these circumstances I think it best that I stand aside as a Minister. I do so with great reluctance, but my estimation of the importance of this issue leaves me no choice. I have always been in favour of a Europe in which we can compete and trade without hindrance, but I cannot stand

by while our quality of life is jeopardised by a provision in the Treaty which we have failed to tackle.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working as part of your Ministerial team, first at the Home Office and more recently at the DTI. As you know, I support your leadership of the party and remain fully committed to

government policy in all other respects.

I have no doubt that we can win the next general election convincingly and I shall continue to work wholeheartedly for that goal. As I have said to you previously, the resolution of uncertainties about Article 7a will provide us with a clear-cut opportunity to reassure the electorate that we have British interests firmly at heart.

Yours ever, Charles."

THIS is an abridged text of John Major's reply to Charles Wardle:

"Dear Charles, Thank you for your letter about your decision to resign from the Government.

As you know, the Government is absolutely clear that the right to maintain immigration controls at points of entry should be maintained. We believe this is an essential safeguard, not only

MAJOR'S REPLY

against illegal immigration, but also to combat transnational crime and terrorism. Entry control makes sense for Britain, as an island state, and we have no intention of giving it up. I therefore see no difference between us on the principles of this matter.

As far as interpretations of article 7(a) of the treaty are

concerned, I have considered very carefully with Cabinet colleagues what course would most effectively protect this country's interests... we shall fight to ensure that the position established by Margaret Thatcher when she signed the Single European Act in 1985, and consistently upheld by the Government

since then, remains. This may, as you suggest, become a matter for the forthcoming inter-governmental conference. However, there are a number of developments in train which could affect the position before the IGC opens.

... I am grateful for your service to the Government at the Home Office and in the DTI, and for your strong support on other issues.

Yours ever, John."

UK will not weaken on immigration says Howard

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD yesterday promised to maintain tough immigration controls for millions of foreigners arriving at ports and airports throughout the United Kingdom.

The Home Secretary said the Government had no intention of dismantling frontier controls which, he said, were vital for Britain. In the wake of the resignation of Charles Wardle, the Junior Trade Minister, over the alleged erosion of immigration controls by Brussels, Mr Howard said: "We are absolutely clear, these controls are vital for us and the Government is absolutely clear that they have to be kept and that they will be kept."

Within the European Union there are an estimated 12 million legal immigrants. Last year proposals in a document by the Padraig Flynn, the Commissioner for Social Policy and Immigration, suggested giving them new rights in areas such as employment and housing.

In the decade to the end of 1993, 9.8 million people from non-EU countries entered the United Kingdom, the Immi-

gration and Nationality department annual report stated. It showed that in 1993 16,000 passengers were refused entry or deported as a result of suspicions that people claiming to have come for a short visit were trying to find work. Others were rejected because they lacked the correct entry visa and work permit, were suspected of being bogus students, or were travelling on forged documents.

The report showed that only 220 nationals from the 11 other EU countries were refused entry and deported from the UK in 1993, compared with 1,239 in 1983. More than 6,000 travellers from the Commonwealth were refused entry compared with 7,500 in 1983.

Among those refused entry in 1993 were 1,700 Poles, 1,200 Nigerians, 990 Americans and 600 South Africans. The report warned about the extent of forgery and passport abuse. At Heathrow airport 2,360 cases involving forgery or passport abuse were spotted by immigration officials, "a significant percentage of which involved passports, visas and identity documents of member states of the European Union".

The Government has insisted that in spite of undertakings in the Single European Act defining the internal market as an area without internal frontiers, it will retain controls at entry ports. A general declaration allows states to take such steps as they consider necessary to prevent drug smuggling, terrorism and illegal immigration.

But some fear that this provision may prove less than water-tight in the event of a challenge in the European Court.



Howard: 'controls are vital to country'



French and British police check passports on a Channel Tunnel train despite the stated aim of "an area without internal frontiers"

Minister with no time for compromise

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE issue of immigration goes back to Charles Wardle's roots: he was born in Quetta, Pakistan, weeks before the Second World War, and came to Britain with his family as a young child.

His resignation yesterday, following disagreements with John Major over immigration, was in keeping with his no-compromise attitude and the tough stance he adopted on immigration matters while a Home Office minister.

Mr Wardle's two-year spell at that department was punctuated by outbursts from ethnic rights organisations over far-reaching legislation which removed the right of appeal for many asylum-seekers.

Tory MPs are puzzled, however,

both by the timing of Mr Wardle's resignation — more than six months after leaving the Home Office — and his decision to base it on an issue that has not been at the forefront of Tory unease over Europe.

Although generally pro-European, Mr Wardle has made clear to friends that he was anxious that John Major should be seen to take a stand against the European Commission on an important issue.

A bluff, no-nonsense politician, the MP for Bexhill and Battle has had stormy relationships with senior civil servants, some of whom have accused him of rudeness and an overbearing attitude. Although he concedes he has "had battles", including one over Home Office research into refugees

living in Britain, he denies strenuously that he has been unnecessarily difficult to deal with.

More potentially damaging to his ministerial career prospects was his falling out with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Relations between the two soured abruptly last summer when Mr Howard ordered Mr Wardle to reinvestigate applications for British citizenship made by Mohamed and Ali Al Fayed, the Egyptian businessman and owner of Harrods.

Mr Wardle has also had to overcome opposition from constituents, but easily defeated a deselection campaign after he supported Michael Heseltine's leadership bid against Margaret Thatcher in 1990.

Colleagues say that Mr Wardle had hoped last summer that, after steering the controversial Asylum and

Immigration Bill through the Commons, he would be rewarded by promotion. He was disappointed at his sideways shift to another junior post at the Trade and Industry Department although the move brought him in close contact with Mr Heseltine.

Despite the toughness of the immigration legislation he piloted through the Commons, he has emphasised that he is not trying to curb legal immigration and has maintained close contacts with the ethnic population of the West Midlands, where he is the Government's regional minister.

As a former chairman of the Conservative centre-left One Nation Forum, Mr Wardle is closely allied to Cabinet pro-Europeans such as Mr Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Pledge on frontiers difficult to fulfil

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

ANTI-IMMIGRANT feeling is mounting in several continental European states and politicians are wondering whether voters will allow them to carry out the promises to abolish frontier controls that were made in the 1980s.

The dispute over Britain's right to continue passport checks began in 1985, when Europe's leaders were putting together the Single European Act. The freedoms of the single market are defined as "an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured".

In Luxembourg in 1985, Margaret Thatcher secured a declaration that nothing in the treaty would "affect the right of member states to take such measures as they consider necessary for the purpose of controlling immigration from third countries". The Commission has regularly disagreed over the issue but done nothing about it.

The Commission and most EU governments argue that once someone has entered the Union legally, he enjoys the same rights to cross frontiers without checks as any EU citizen. Britain says a means is needed of checking whether travellers are bona fide EU residents.

MEPs are taking the Commission to court for failing to enforce the rules of the single market but the Commission has been taking its side of the case as slowly as possible. On March 26 seven states that have signed the Schengen Treaty will abolish frontier controls between them. That leaves eight states reserving their right to act differently.

The declaration that Lady Thatcher negotiated in 1985 does not have the legal force of the treaty itself. If Britain was defeated at the European Court of Justice any government would still be in a strong political position to bargain for a stronger opt-out.

Scottish parliament 'would add 19p to income tax'

By A STAFF REPORTER

IAN LANG, the Scottish Secretary, claimed yesterday that a Scottish parliament planned by Labour could cost Scots an extra 19p in income tax.

Mr Lang argued that Scotland had a good financial deal under the present system. But if a future government brought Scottish public spending in line with the rest of the United Kingdom, it would cut funds to a devolved Scottish parliament by almost £3 billion. To replace that, a Scottish income tax of 19p in the pound would be needed — in addition to the UK rate, he claimed.

Mr Lang's attack came as Labour and the Scottish Nationalists squared up for last night's debate in Edinburgh between George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, and Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, on the relative merits of devolution and independence. The debate will be broadcast in Scotland tonight on BBC1.

In his pre-emptive attack yesterday, Mr Lang said Scotland had an 8.8 per cent share

of the UK population, but a 10 per cent share of identifiable government expenditure. The creation of an Edinburgh parliament would "sacrifice" some existing powers in force to protect Scottish interests.

"A British Chancellor could cut our funding and with no voice in Cabinet we would be powerless to stop him," Mr Lang said. "So just to maintain spending levels in Scotland, a Scottish parliament would have to levy additional taxes."

He said Labour claimed the maximum figure by which a Scottish parliament could vary income tax was 3p in the pound, but this would only raise £450 million. "If a British Chancellor decided to reduce the funding transferred to a Scottish parliament to the same level as the rest of the UK, funding would need to be cut by almost £2,345 million."

To replace that would need additional taxation in Scotland, on top of UK taxation, of 19p on Scottish income tax just to stand still," Mr Lang

said. "And if this parliament wanted to raise the current level of public spending in Scotland, the extra tax burden on Scots would be greater still."

□ An equal number of Scots favour independence as favour devolution, according to the latest opinion poll, and over half are prepared to pay more in income tax to allow Scotland to have its own parliament (Gillian Bowditch writes).

A poll conducted for Scotland on Sunday newspaper showed 37 per cent of Scots backing independence, while 35 per cent favoured devolution, a difference well within the margin of error for such polls. Nineteen per cent favoured the status quo with 9 per cent undecided. Of those polled, 21 per cent were prepared to pay an extra 3p in the pound or more to secure a Scottish parliament; 30 per cent said they would be prepared to pay up to 2p; 33 per cent said they were not prepared to pay any more income tax.

Trouble in paradise as sun-seekers sue

Continued from page 1

Wales when she wanted to rent a villa. Guests were agitated at the thought of paparazzi spying on them from helicopters.

Lord Sainsbury has a house there and Mr Follett a plot of land. *Hellor* magazine, profiling the socialist author's villa in the South of France, announced admiringly that he was building another home in the West Indies, where his wife was born.

"It is not a conventional hotel," the author once told *The Times*, as he nominated the island as his ideal location for a perfect weekend, "but a series of bungalows dotted all over the island and it has a communal restaurant. It is my favourite hotel in the world. Jumby Bay has a wonderful French chef."

Other club members include Lord Glendyne, the businessman, and Roland Franklin, the financial wizard and former right-hand man of Sir James Goldsmith.

Sixteen club members have bought land on the island to build homes, but even non-resident club members have the right to large discounts at

the hotel, estimated at \$600 a day. Carmel Tittle, a consultant to the Mariani brothers, argues that the developers have poured in millions of dollars to turn the island into an exclusive retreat, but he says the private club has just failed to attract enough members and should be closed.

"The owners are not trying to short-change anyone," he said. "Arawak [the holding company] wants to dissolve the club, but the residents would continue to have full use of the resort. It would also pay back the membership fee or dues to the others." The refund proposal is due to go to a vote on February 28.

Mr Follett's wife Barbara, founder of Emily's List UK, which aims to help more women to enter Parliament, declined to comment last night at the couple's £2 million mansion in Cheyne Walk, central London, where she was babysitting. "I don't know anything about it," she said.

Lord Glendyne, 68, said he joined the club because Jumby Bay was one of the few places he still liked to take his holidays. "Anyone can go," he said, "if they will have you."

Parents' outrage at school

Continued from page 1

sea. The first inkling of problems for parents came on Thursday when they were told by letter of an important meeting at the school on Saturday afternoon. It was at the meeting that the trust broke the news that the site was being sold for development. Some of the girls from the school at the meeting burst into tears. Kerstin Lewis, headmistress, was said by a teacher to be "too distressed to make any comment".

Parents at the school, where fees are £1,500 a term for day pupils and £3,000 for boarders, were told a deal had been struck with the co-educational Battle Abbey School, a public

school five miles away, to take in girls. The 25 teachers at Charters-Ancaster were also invited to apply for posts.

The trust described the move as a "merger" with Battle Abbey School and said a falling roll was the cause, but their arguments were disputed. News of the closure was met by the majority of the pupils, parents and teachers with what was described by some at the meeting as "riotous" dissent. A number of girls protested outside the school with placards.

Mervyn Woolliams, chairman of the board of governors of Charters-Ancaster and a former Tory councillor in Hastings, was booed off the stage

together with Dr Janet Sondheimer, deputy chairman of the trust, and Michael Oakley, secretary. Mr Woolliams was accused of failing to inform his fellow governors and teachers of any of the negotiations.

Parents later pointed out that Mr Woolliams is a partner in the Bexhill-on-Sea solicitors firm of Fynmores where a fellow partner is John Ball, clerk to the governors of Battle Abbey School.

Dr Peter Greenhalgh, a businessman whose two daughters attend the school, said: "This has all been done without consultation and at such short notice. We are all horrified."

Mr Woolliams said last night at his home near Battle: "It would be wrong of me to make any comment."

□ The Girls Public Day School Trust is more than 125 years old and is responsible for the largest group of independent schools in Britain. Among the 26 establishments owned by the trust are several of the most high-powered academic girls' schools, including South Hampstead High and Nottingham High School for Girls.



Disappointed pupils inside the school last night

Education, page 37



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Trusts say only training and vigilance can beat kidnappers

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

TOO little is being done to protect maternity units from potential baby-snatchers looking for hospitals with poor security, experts say.

Three cases in which babies were snatched from maternity wards occurred last year, including that of Abbie Humphries, who was taken from her father's arms in the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham by a woman posing as a nurse. Abbie was not returned to

her parents until three weeks later, after a huge police operation. Some hospitals in Britain have introduced elaborate security systems involving cameras, code-operated doors and alarms in their maternity units. Joan Rogers, chief executive of Harlepool General Hospital, Cleveland, which has spent £250,000 — 1 per cent of its budget — on security, said: "By making patients safe we are spending money on care. If people feel secure in a comfortable way it contributes to their care."

However, few hospitals have such extensive security. A survey of 100 maternity units carried out by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts last September found that staff were more concerned about infant abduction than anything else even though the risk was tiny. The association is to issue guidance in April advising hospitals to upgrade their security but giving warning that technology cannot do the job alone. A determined abductor will evade any system and the key is better training and increased vigilance by both staff and parents,

it will say. Jean Trainor, deputy director of the association, said: "We don't want to turn hospitals into prisons. Maternity wards are supposed to be homely, relaxing places but at the same time we have to protect the babies. We probably will have to go in for code-operated locks and swipe cards." Critics have questioned the spending of large sums of money on security when there were only three abductions from among 800,000 births last year. However, Ms Trainor said effective systems could be installed cheaply. A

hospital in Edinburgh is tagging babies with a device that triggers an alarm if they are removed from the unit. The system worked well and cost only £20,000, she said. Philip Hunt, director of the association, said that if every hospital spent 1 per cent of its budget on security, the total would amount to £200 million. "Obviously, it is a lot of money but the issue is whether the NHS can carry on ignoring security issues."

An American expert on infant abduction, who has visited Britain to advise hospital managers on security, said that the typical baby thief went "window-shopping" in local hospitals to look for the weakest security before acting. "It's a case of making it more difficult," John Rabun, of the US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said. Mr Rabun said that the typical abductor was a woman who might have miscarried and appeared pregnant. She was often not living with her partner and had planned the baby "to get him back". When she miscarries she goes in search of another baby.

Two women's calls led the police to abducted baby

By KATE ALDERSON

TELEPHONE calls to the police from two women ended 23 hours of anguish for the parents of the abducted baby Lydia Owens, who left hospital with her parents yesterday after being pronounced fit and well.

A 39-year-old woman will appear before magistrates at Prestatyn today on charges of abducting Lydia from Glan Clwyd Hospital, near Abergele. Three men who had been helping with inquiries were released without charge.

Lydia was reunited with her parents after two separate calls led police to a rented bungalow in Rhyl on Saturday night. Her parents, Michael Owens, 38, and his wife Christine, 32, smiled and posed for pictures with Meryl Webster, a midwife, as they left the hospital by the same rear exit the abductor is understood to have used when she took Lydia from the maternity unit on Friday night.

Speaking on behalf of the Owens, Liz Choat, a solicitor, said: "The family was delighted that Lydia was found so quickly. They have asked me to pass on their grateful thanks to the police and hospital staff for their support and help and to the press for giving vital publicity." The family was understood to be negotiating a contract for their story with a tabloid newspaper.

Mr and Mrs Owens returned to their flat in Llandudno where family and friends awaited their arrival.

The other two children of Mr and Mrs Owens, four-year-old Kathryn and one-year-old Andrew, met their baby sister yesterday for the first time. Four-day-old Lydia was taken from the Brenig ward of the hospital near Abergele by a lone woman a week before security cameras were due to be installed in the maternity wards.

The abductor took Lydia from the first floor ward when Mrs Owens left the room for a few minutes. She concealed the baby in what is understood to be a floral bag and was able to walk down a flight of stairs at the rear of the hospital and slip away undetected at 8.40pm on Friday. The baby was returned 23 hours later, only two hours after Mrs Owens made a television appeal for the safe return of her child.

The bungalow in Rhyl where Lydia was believed to have been held is well-kept and thought to be worth about £45,000. The occupants are understood to have moved in three months ago. David Thomas, a consultant obstetrician at the hospital, told a news conference that the baby had been returned to her mother "safe, well-fed and well-hydrated". He said there had been screams of joy from Mr and Mrs Owens when they were reunited with their daughter.

When asked if the family would have suffered any long-term psychiatric effects as a result of the abduction he replied: "With this particular couple I don't think there will be any major problems. They come from a large, close-knit family who will give them a great deal of support and have a good general practitioner. I think they will come to terms with this very well."

Lydia was brought to the hospital at 7pm on Saturday by police where she was examined by consultants, a registrar and nursing staff who confirmed her identity and declared her fit and healthy. She had lost a little weight, Mr Thomas said, but that was normal for a baby of her age. She was given back to her parents 30 minutes later. Mr Thomas said: "Mrs Owens heard her daughter crying outside the ward before she was reunited," he said. "She knew it was her baby immediately."

Meryl Webster had been of great support to the couple, Mr Thomas said. The nurse had been present during Mrs



Lydia is handed back to her mother Caroline Owens by Meryl Webster, midwife at the Glan Clwyd hospital

Owens's Caesarean operation last week and had developed a strong relationship with her. "She also recognised Lydia when she was returned to the ward," he added.

Ian Bellingham, the hospital's director of operational services, said a formal investigation into security within the maternity unit was being conducted after the abduction. Since the abduction of Abbie Humphries from the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham last year, a review of security at the Glan Clwyd

hospital had already been under way. Surveillance cameras had been installed at the hospital, including the two main entrances and in the casualty department. They were due to be installed within a week in the maternity unit.

"The security programme was part of a phased development and we obviously went for the main strategic areas," said Mr Bellingham. "We don't believe security cameras are the total answer to having an impenetrable system at the hospital." He said staffing on

the maternity unit had been at its normal level on Friday night, and perhaps work had been a little quieter than usual.

Maternity unit staff, who have undergone security awareness training in recent months, had been shaken by the incident, he added.

"The hospital is a public place and we do not believe that any hospital can totally legislate against members of the public who willfully plan to breach security," he said. While dozens of detectives

were involved in the search for baby Lydia, dozens of media representatives from newspapers and broadcasters descended on the area shortly after news of the abduction broke on Friday night.

In the wake of the abduction of Abbie Humphries, rival tabloid journalists were determined not to be "out-scooped" by each other. A leading tabloid newspaper had 12 staff on the ground, another provided six staff while most others had at least two or three reporters and photographers.

Mother criticises £12,000 holidays

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE mother of a handicapped teenager who was sent on Mediterranean holidays that cost £12,000 has criticised social service chiefs for wasting money. Ricki Harle, 15, spent six weeks in Turkey and a fortnight in Carlu accompanied by six social workers who supplied around-the-clock care.

His mother said he did not enjoy the trips and the money should have been spent on helping her to cope with her son. Flights, cars, apartments with swimming pool, food and spending money came to £7,000, while the cost of flying social workers out two at a time to provide 24-hour care cost £5,000.

Social services officials at Newcastle upon Tyne City Council defended the trips and said it would have cost more to send Ricki on holiday in Britain. Ricki, of Newbiggin Hall Estate, Newcastle, has suffered from microcephalic brain disorder since birth and needs constant attention.

Sandie Jones, 41, his mother, whose son Ross, 9, suffers from the same condition, said the money would have been better spent towards a £110,000 package to provide a care team at their home.

Climber missing for third night

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A HILL walker who went missing in Glencoe on Friday in appalling weather was believed to be spending a third night out in the open last night. About 100 mountain rescuers braved blizzards and avalanches for nine hours yesterday but failed to find him.

Allan Sands, 24, from Shawlands, Glasgow, had been walking in White Corries, near Glencoe. Experienced mountaineers said no one should have been walking in the Scottish hills at the weekend after warnings were given of severe avalanche activity. Dozens ignored the alert and took to the hills, giving mountain rescue teams one of their busiest weekends of the year.

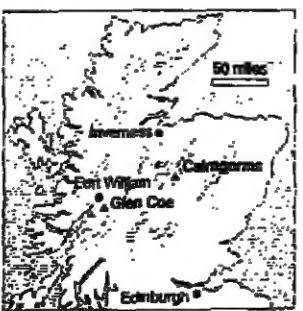
The two-day search for Mr Sands, which involved Glencoe, Leuchars and Kinross mountain rescue teams as well as teams from Strathclyde Police and Northern Constabulary, was called off at about 5pm last night. The search will resume at first light.

On Saturday about an inch of snow fell on the mountains, then the temperature dropped. The result was massive avalanches.

Eight climbers were rescued in two separate incidents in the Cairngorms at the weekend. In both cases the victims

avoided serious injury because rescuers were on the spot.

In the first incident, Roger Whetton, 47, from Stockport, and Anthony Park, 29, from Sheffield, fell 40ft down a gully. Their fall was witnessed by a mountaineering instructor who raised the alarm. A rescue team from Leuchars, on exercise in the area, man-



aged to get the injured climbers to a newly built rescue hut. They were flown to hospital with minor injuries.

While the rescue was happening the team received word that an avalanche had caught several climbers only ten minutes' walk away. Six climbers were discovered partially buried by the snowfall and were dug out by the rescue team.

Five of the climbers were in hospital last night. They were said to be stable.

Father dies after son is rescued from river

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A FATHER drowned while trying to rescue his four-year-old son from a swollen river yesterday, unaware that the boy had already been saved by his older brothers.

Nicholas Grill, 39, took his three sons to see the flooded River Rother at West Harting, West Sussex, where William lost his footing and slipped into the water. His father, fearing the boy had been swept under a tunnel and towards a weir, was attempting to get close to the tunnel when he fell in and was dragged towards the weir.

He had not realised that William had been pulled to safety by his brothers Jonathan, 10, and Christopher, 7, further along the river.

Christopher rushed to the family's home nearby to alert his mother, who drove to the scene and discovered her husband lying unconscious in the water at the edge of the weir.

She and a neighbour attempted to revive him until paramedics and a doctor arrived, but he died before reaching St Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

Mr Grill was deputy headmaster of Church's College, a public school in Petersfield, Hampshire.

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BARCLAYS

Cartland brings true romance to TV

By JOHN YOUNG



Dame Barbara: 13 books to be adapted for screen

THE works of Dame Barbara Cartland, the world's most prolific romantic novelist, are to be brought to television for the first time.

In her 94th year, Dame Barbara, step-grandmother of the Princess of Wales and scourge of the permissive society, has signed an agreement with Working Title Films, the company that made *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, to adapt 13 of her stories in a series of one-hour programmes.

Dame Barbara, the titles of whose books occupy almost a page of *Who's Who?* and are

augmented at the rate of about one every fortnight, said yesterday: "It is all very exciting. I am frightfully pleased."

"The Prime Minister and I are trying to get back to morality, back to whatever he calls it — yes, basics, that's right. This everlasting obsession with sex is so bad for children."

The series, provisionally entitled *The Barbara Cartland Theatre of Romance*, is to be made in association with Cartland Film and Television, a company set up specifically for

the project by the author and her son, Ian McCrquodale. Simon Wright, of Working Title Films, said yesterday that all the British television networks were showing interest, and that the idea was also attracting potential buyers in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Only in America was there resistance to the notion of true love and old-fashioned gallantry. "All they seemed to be interested in was stories involving hot porn or saying something nasty about people living or dead," Dame Barbara said.

Howard ridicules Tebbit's warning of lawless Britain

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD TEBBIT'S warning of an apocalyptic future of lawlessness and civil disobedience if Britain is drawn into a federal superstate was ridiculed yesterday by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Addressing the Young Conservative conference in Southampton at the weekend, Lord Tebbit, former Tory Party chairman, said the European Union was forcing the British into lawlessness and he suggested that animal rights activists throw bottles and bricks at Belgian police to show their disgust at the European veil trade.

He said Britain was being driven into a situation where laws from Brussels were increasingly considered unjust.

laws that "did not have the consent of the British people and were therefore laws without legitimacy which would not need to be obeyed."

The consequences of that inevitable loss of respect for the law would be serious, he said. "What we face now is a vast and unacceptable loss of the right to govern ourselves."

To applause, Lord Tebbit said that under a united Europe Britain would become a subject race like the Chechens in Russia or black South Africans under apartheid. He told the conference on Saturday: "I begin to understand how it was that Nelson Mandela was not able to tell black South Africans that it was their duty to obey

the law." Mr Howard dismissed the speech yesterday, saying Lord Tebbit had always had the gift for the dramatic phrase and he was using that gift to its full extent. He gave a warning that whether Britain was in the European Union or not, teenage tearaways would not get away with breaking the law.

Lord Tebbit said that people angry at European interference should turn their wrath on Brussels. "Protesters at Shoreham and Brightlingsea protesting about the veal trade would be better employed going to Brussels and throwing their bottles and bricks not at the unfortunate and kindly Sussex Constabulary but at the Belgian riot police," he said.

Mayhew promises to cherish Union

By ALICE THOMSON

THE Northern Ireland Secretary pleaded with ardent Unionists at the Young Conservative conference not to dangle the "fragile" peace protest, and said the Government would not "sell them out".

In an effort to calm Unionist fears after the leak to *The Times* of the blueprint of the Anglo-Irish framework document, Sir Patrick Mayhew promised that the people of the Province would soon have their say.

"This Government is not neutral. We cherish the Union because we know the quality of the people, the beauty of the place and the strength of the

ties between us," he said. To stony silence, he told the conference "nothing we jointly propose will impinge on the present status of Northern Ireland nor dilute in any way the sovereignty and integrity of the United Kingdom."

Delegates made clear that they felt the Government had already sold out. Pamela Shooter, from southeast London, was cheered as she shouted: "Ulster is British, no surrender."

Graham Montgomery, the chairman of Ulster Unionist Conservatives, said: "The current policy is a shame on the party."



A Young Conservative with a patriotic tie holds up a placard appealing for the release of Private Lee Clegg

Young Tories put on bold new front

By OUR POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Young Conservatives relaunched their tarnished image at the weekend with a sexy new look that they hope will take them into the 21st century.

Sick of being branded as hooray Henriks or train spotters, they invited the raunchy Ann Summers dance troupe to gyrate at their disco clad only in black underwear. The ladies and gentlemen of the YCs discarded their taffeta and bowties for satin bodices and tartan miniskirts. During the day the girls wore red suits and red lipstick and the boys ruffled their centre partings.

The Young Conservatives hate being ridiculed as Thatcher's right-wing children who want to hang rapists, thrash social workers and tear up the Maastricht treaty. The Tory hierarchy is so embarrassed by the antics of its young folk that for the first time in 35 years it refused to sponsor the conference. So the Young Conservatives have done it

alone. This weekend they chose rain-drenched Southampton to launch their new model YC Party.

Unlike their elders, they were determined not to be controversial and went for a debate on deregulation of alcohol licensing rather than Europe. Usually most MPs eschew the conference but the YCs threatened by extinction managed to entice five ministers. Paul Clarke, 24, national vice-chairman, said: "The MPs party members and young all rubbish us as boring country toffs but we don't sit around drinking Pimm's. We are trendy, some of us are even unemployed. We are releasing ourselves and want teenagers to see us as an alternative night out to the pub, not oversized Boy Scouts."

Two blonde girls, who led the cheering in the front row, were thrilled. Fay Keenan, 17, said: "This has been the best weekend of the year. I don't want to

be an MP but it's a brilliant way of meeting friends and having fun." Underneath the hair dye, the YC product is reassuringly similar. In the end, only about 400 people joined in and they were mostly in their 20s and had been coming for years. Their right-wing credentials remained impeccable. They cheered Tebbit, their role model is Michael Portillo, and one got up and called for the return of the birch. The bows pinned to their lapels are not red AIDS ribbons but yellow "Free Paratrooper Lee Clegg" bows.

But a visiting constituency agent was appalled. "The Young Conservatives should be going for young accountants, solicitors and businessmen who want to meet other bright uncomplicated young kids and who have read the Tory word in the executive dining rooms and golf clubs. Otherwise the YCs will be extinct before the 21st century," he said.

Trader in vandalism attack dies

An elderly shopkeeper who died after confronting youths he suspected of smashing his window suffered a massive heart attack, police said. Ernie Ayres, 66, rushed out of his greengrocers in Newton Abbot, Devon, after a plate-glass window was smashed.

He confronted three youths who denied breaking the glass and after checking a garage and a pub Mr Ayres went home but collapsed as he telephoned the police.

Knife victim

Darren Parker, 23, died after being stabbed in an alley in Sydenham, southeast London. The solicitor's clerk, from Catford, suffered a single stab wound in a scuffle.

Race group row

The Campaign for Racial Justice has described as astonishing a racial equality group set up by Cambridgeshire County Council that is made up entirely of white people.

Harsh lesson

The infants block of St Mary's Primary School, Flint, Clwyd, has been gutted in a blaze just before the start of the school's fire safety week. The cause is under investigation.

Police scrambled

Police officers in Nottinghamshire have been equipped with personal radios which scramble messages and make them unintelligible to anyone listening covertly.

The Sun rises

The price of *The Sun* is increased by 1p to 23p from today. A spokesman said the increased cost of newsprint had prompted the rise.

Lonely hearts can lose a fortune when they play the dating game

By EMMA WILKINS

AS SINGLE people throughout Britain brace themselves for Valentine's Day tomorrow, some will be tempted to join the growing number of lonely hearts who seek companionship and romance through dating agencies.

The boom in the introduction agency business over the past 15 years means there are now around 60,000 clients compared with 50,000 in 1980. But while many are satisfied, others find the whole process can lead to both romantic and financial disappointment. After the collapse last year of Companions Introductions Ltd, one of Britain's largest agencies, 2,000 lonely hearts were left unhappy and out of pocket. The company, which charged fees of up to £1,400, went into liquidation with debts of £1 million.

Since the closure of Companions, another dating agency which sought professional people has found itself in difficulties, leaving a trail of former clients demanding refunds of their joining fees. By Invitation Only Limited charged clients up to £1,000 each for one-to-one dates and social evenings at some of London's most exclusive restaurants.

The company, one of whose directors was Andrew Benson, a 45-year-old businessman from east London, ceased to trade in September last year. The Official Receiver was called in last month to its parent company, called Make-a-Date Ltd. A new dating agency has taken over the assets of By Invitation Only Limited, including its offices in central London, but none of the liabilities. The new company, called Keywish Ltd, is using the trading name By Invitation Only but is considering changing to a different

name to avoid confusion. There is no suggestion that Keywish Ltd is responsible for any earlier problems experienced by Mr Benson's clients.

Former members of By Invitation Only share a list of grievances, with many complaining that their initial interviews, lasting two hours, were too long. Others claim that they did not receive membership lists and some said group dinner and drinks parties were cancelled at short notice. Westminster Trading Standards officers have begun an investigation after receiving

complaints from former clients. Mr Benson, who has now left the dating agency business to pursue film-making interests, denied that a two-hour interview put unfair pressure on potential clients. "I always wanted to provide the best service in the world. It wasn't like a timeshare. Interviews of two to three hours are fair and average," he said. When asked why some clients had not received their social calendars, Mr Benson said it must have been a mistake. "That must be a clerical error — that's unfortunate," Mr

Benson, whose business partner was his girlfriend Helen Wayne, admitted he had a "moral responsibility" to his disappointed customers. "I feel sorry for some of them," he said.

"Helen and I went through months of hell in the office, trying to sort out the problems. We put a lot of our resources into trying to save the business. It would have been peaceful and easy to just close the business down, but we fought to get it right," he said. Mr Benson claimed that his business problems stemmed from an internal company dispute.

The Association of British Introduction Agencies, which was formed in 1981 to represent the industry, recommends that prospective clients should first consult its own membership list of 40 agencies. "One of the big problems in the business is that anyone can set up a dating agency and does not need a licence," Frances Pine, of the association, said. "Our job is to protect the public just like any other trade association. Unfortunately, there are a few agencies which do a great disservice to the many excellent ones."

Many lonely hearts are too embarrassed to complain if they are dissatisfied, one of the industry's most experienced directors said. Mary Balfour, who runs her own agency called Drawing Down the Moon, said: "Despite the fact that more people than ever are using agencies, many are still bashful when it comes to making complaints."

Divorces, a magazine for divorced, separated and single people, is launched today. John Griffiths, the publisher, said: "This is the fastest-growing sector in the UK."

CASE STUDIES

Clients of By Invitation Only Limited:

□ A woman of 43 joined in August 1993 and paid £900 on Barclaycard after a two-hour interview. She was appalled by the dates arranged for her. She said: "I met one man who earned a quarter of my salary, had never been abroad and was totally incompatible with me." Among the interests she listed were keeping fit and team sports.

"The next date was with a man who was so overweight that he could hardly get up the stairs. He had no interest in sport or exercise," she said.

□ A 40-year-old woman, recently separated from her husband, joined in June last year and paid £675 on her credit card. She was promised a minimum of eight contacts for her money plus a social calendar of dinners and parties to be sent out monthly. "I became concerned because I had to badger them for the social calendar," she said. She made an appointment to see Mr Benson in October. "He told me the company had

been taken over and they had staff problems." She has since managed to claim back her money from her credit card company.

□ A civil servant, 40, whose wife died four years ago, joined in July last year, paying £299 by cheque.

"They sent me a contact list and I met one person." The date was a success, but did not lead to romance so he telephoned to arrange further meetings. "They said they had run into company problems. From then on I received no more contact lists."

□ A self-employed businessman, paid £970 to join in April last year and was satisfied with the service for a few months. He telephoned the company's offices in November to arrange a date, but was told that the company had been taken over. The man, who claims he did not receive value for his £970, is now demanding a part-refund. Since the new company is not responsible for the former company's liabilities, it is not bound to offer refunds.

Rogers condemns short-termism of urban planners

By LIN JENKINS

CITY planning is too important to be left to the short-term financial imperatives of developers and should be a democratic process, the architect Sir Richard Rogers said yesterday.

Areas for the rich and poor had become polarised, and industry, business and housing segregated into ghettos. "We are witnessing the destruction of the very idea of the city. The emphasis is now on selfishness and separation rather than on contact and community," he said. The

now failing to provide the most basic of society's needs could create a healthy and civilising environment. "The ultimate aim of sustainable economic development is to leave to future generations a stock of environmental wealth or natural capital which equals or exceeds our own inheritance," he said, adding that nowhere was the implementation of such sustainability more relevant than within the city.

"In fact, I believe environmental sustainability needs to become the guiding law of modern urban design — an innovation that could have an impact on the 21st-century city as radical as the industrial revolution had on its 19th-century counterpart."

Sir Richard, who designed the Lloyd's building in the City of London and the Pompidou Centre in Paris, said planners tended to design cities to meet private material needs rather than to foster public life. Open and public spaces were encroached upon and reduced to a point where they engendered fear and promoted migration to the suburbs.

However, if cities were where life was often at its most precarious, they were also where there was the best opportunity for improvement and intervention. Sir Richard called for children to be educated in citizenship through the national curriculum as a first stage to involving the community in decision-making, which would transform the fabric and environment of cities.

□ The lecture was the first of five on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday at 7.30pm.



Sir Richard: extolled value of sustainability

challenge was to "break with a system which treats technology and finance as a route to short-term profit rather than as a means to social and environmental ends."

Delivering the first of his *Reith Lectures* on Radio 4 about the environmental dilemma faced by cities struggling to house half our population, Sir Richard called for greater intervention and outlined his philosophy of "sustainability" as an ethical approach to planning. He said cities that were

Wilde given a window on to Poets' Corner

By JIM MCCUE



Wilde stage stars will perform at service

WESTMINSTER ABBEY will admit the name of Oscar Wilde to Poets' Corner tomorrow, 100 years to the day after the opening of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. At a service open to the public, a window will be unveiled and Seamus Heaney will deliver an address. Dame Judi Dench and Michael Denison will play "the handbag scene", and Sir John Gielgud will read from *De Profundis*.

When Wilde's "Trivial Comedy for Serious People" opened at St James's Theatre in 1895, *An Ideal Husband* had been running for little over a month, but a new work was needed in a hurry to replace Henry James's *Guy Domville*, which had proved a flop.

The Importance was written in four acts, but George Alexander, the actor-manager, reduced it to three to accommo-

date a curtain-raiser. At rehearsals, where he made a stream of interruptions, Wilde remarked: "Yes, it is quite a good play. I remember I wrote one very like it myself, but it was even more brilliant than this." (The typescript of the longer version was rediscovered in the 1950s).

Theatregoers, too, thought the piece brilliant. The first-night audience "rose in their seats and cheered and cheered again". *The Times* noted that "the author was called and applauded". H.G. Wells wrote in *The Pall Mall Gazette*: "Mr Oscar Wilde has decorated a humour that is Gilbertian with innumerable spangles of that wit that is all his own." And A.B. Walkley was perceptive in *The Speaker*: "It is of nonsense all compact, and better nonsense, I think, our stage has not seen." Other reviews were smoother. "The public taste for 'Oscarisms' is not likely to be a lasting one," declared the less enduring

Truth, whose critic was reluctant "to discuss the true inwardness of a soufflé". George Bernard Shaw's notice expressed a more telling complaint, about the comedy being relentless but heartless: "I go to the theatre to be moved to laughter, not to be tickled or busted into it."

Max Beerbohm, who is alluded to in the play as "Maxbohm", wrote on a previous centenary, that of Wilde's birth, in 1954, about "the delight of hearing Oscar Wilde talk": "That his talk was mostly monologue was not his own fault. Nobody was willing to interrupt the music of so magnificent a virtuoso. To have heard him console me for not having heard Dr Johnson or Edmund Burke, Lord Brougham or Sydney Smith."

To hear Wilde's highest and lowest notes sounded in Westminster Abbey will be some consolation for not having heard his talk.

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Courts 'powerless' to enforce new penalty on parents

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW powers brought in last week to make parents ensure their young offenders comply with community sentences are likely to be widely flouted because courts are powerless to punish parents who fail to co-operate.

The controversial powers came into force under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 despite warnings from the Magistrates' Association that they were defective. They give courts the power to bind over parents or guardians where youngsters fail to comply with community sentences such as supervision orders.

Courts already have powers to bind over parents if a child reoffends. The new powers allow courts to make parents forfeit money where the youngster has not reoffended but has failed to comply with a community service sentence. If parents refuse to be bound over they can be fined up to £1,000. The Magistrates' Association has told the Home Office that there is no mechanism to enforce the new procedures.

Rosemary Thomson, its chairman, said: "The court making the bind over is the youth court, and there is no way of bringing back an adult to a youth court. In effect it renders the courts powerless to make credible use of the new powers."

She said the association had arranged another meeting with Home Office officials but had been in discussion with them for over a year about the defects. "We simply want them to agree some kind of mechanism by which parents who are bound over, and who are subsequently in breach, can be dealt with by the adult courts. They have not got this into their heads."

The new provisions have also been attacked by the Penal Affairs Consortium, an umbrella body representing 24 main groups in the criminal justice system. It has said that punishing the parents of young offenders for their children's actions is likely to increase rather than reduce the problems which promote delinquency.

In a report published to coincide with the launch of the new powers, the consortium said that fining and binding over parents was "likely to produce injustice and to place struggling families under even greater stress". It would also add to the financial pressures and hardship on families already struggling to survive.

Frances Crook, director of the Howard League, said: "It is not possible to punish people into being responsible and caring parents." There was, she said, a strong link between chaotic family backgrounds, poverty and the descent into juvenile criminality. Instead of punishing failing parents, resources should be diverted towards promoting the skills of parenthood.



David Bull and his wife Angela, heading for Monte Carlo in their 1952 Hillman Minx Convertible, stop in the New Forest to consult the map

Steel wheels while away miles to Monte Carlo

THE former Liberal leader Sir David Steel was among 61 UK drivers setting off yesterday from Bristol on the Monte Carlo Challenge.

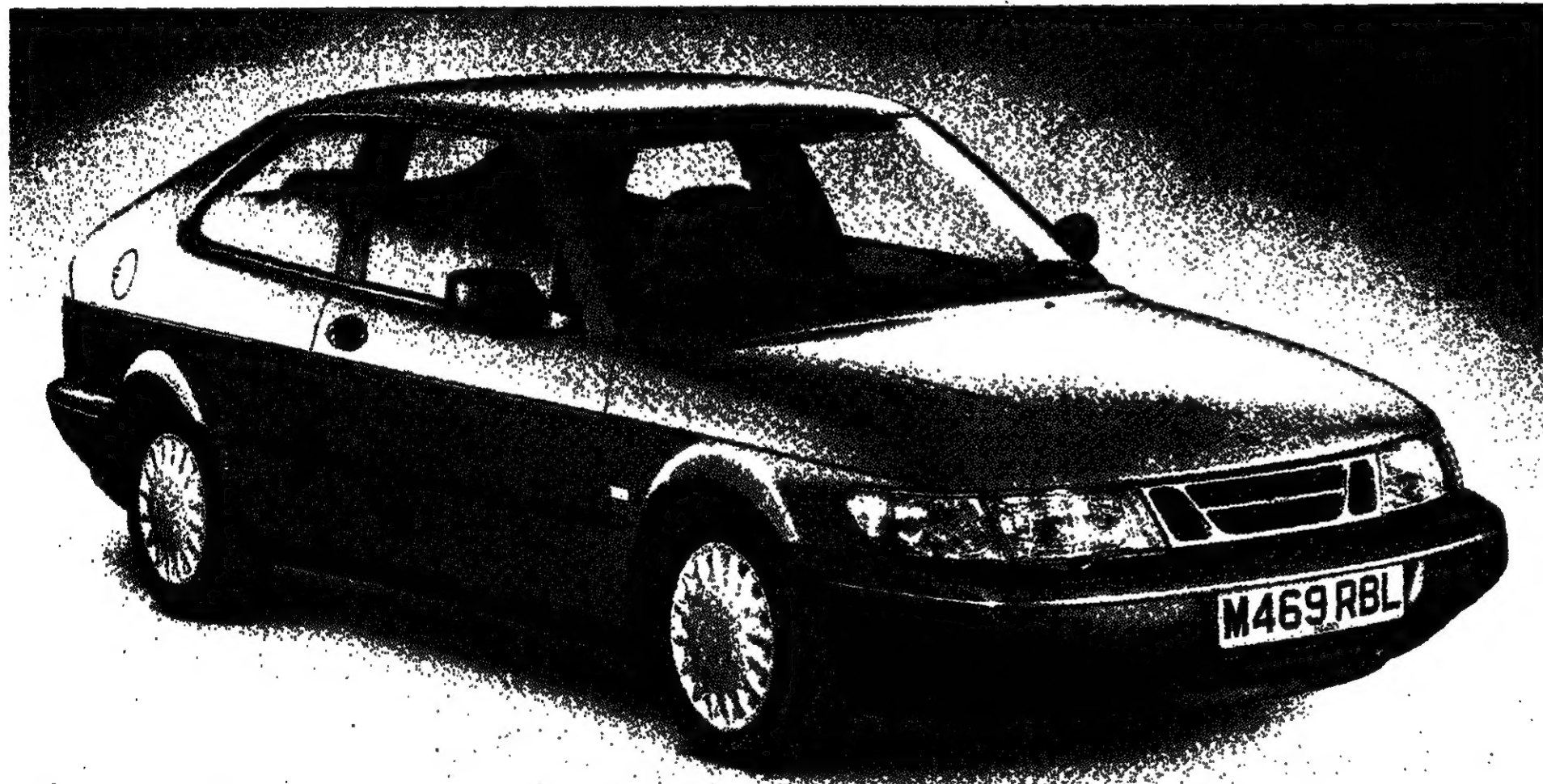
Sir David, 56, competing in his fourth consecutive event, in a 1966 Rover Mark 3 with his navigator Andre Tarres, said: "It is a passion of mine which is a real change from the

tension of politics. The sleepless nights of driving are the worst part, but all-night sittings are pretty good training. The journey across the Alps should be easier this year because we've got a heater. I've been practising wheel changes, and I'm down to two-and-a-half minutes."

Thousands of classic car enthusiasts lined the city's streets yesterday as drivers set out from the British start point. Other teams have set out from five points across the Continent. Cars must not exceed an average of 30mph over each stage and are due to arrive in Monte Carlo on Thursday.

Derek Skinner, of Spencers Wood, Berkshire, was confident his 1958 Austin A35 would see him through on time. Mr Skinner, 59, said: "It is everyone's dream to compete in the Monte Carlo rally — this is the most exciting thing I have ever done. Older cars were built to be more reliable and we will get there in the end."

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North Game all

♠KJ832			
♥A852			
♦Q7			
♣K7			
♠9754	N	♠Q6	
♥Q109	W	♥J	
♦J109	E	♦K542	
♣Q104	S	♣J9532	
♠A10			
♥K9743			
♦A863			
♣A6			

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
All pass	4♥	Pass	6♥

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Opening lead: ♠J

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

North's raise of his partner's suit to game was aggressive but his fourth trump tipped the balance. South jumped directly to the slam — he knew there were sufficient aces for a small slam so there was no reason to use Blackwood.

The opening lead was covered by the queen, king and ace. How should the declarer continue?

Answer: If trumps are 2-2 there is no problem (two spade tricks, five hearts, ace of diamonds and two diamond ruffs, and two top clubs). So you have to consider how to play if trumps are 3-1. In that case the declarer has to be able to make five spade tricks to get rid of all his three diamond losers, with the additional

proviso that the player with the master trump has to follow to four rounds of spades — otherwise he will be able to ruff in and cash a diamond.

If East holds the three trumps, after playing two top trumps, declarer has to cash the ace and king of spades, playing West for queen, nine doubleton. If West holds the three trumps, the only chance is to find him with four small spades. But the extra wrinkle is that South must be in dummy when he finds this out.

The correct line is thus king then ace of hearts, and when East shows out play a spade to the ten, cash the ace of spades, cross to dummy's king of clubs and continue spades, discarding diamonds from hand as West follows helplessly.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fide semi-finals

White: Anatoly Karpov

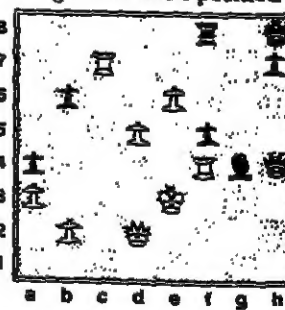
Black: Boris Gelfand

Sanghi Nagar, Game 4

Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	g3	c6
4	Bg2	d5
5	cxd5	cxd5
6	Nf3	Bg7
7	Ne5	O-O
8	Nc3	e6
9	O-O	Nid7
10	h4	Nc6
11	Be3	h5
12	Nf3	Nb6
13	Bf2	Bd7
14	e4	dxc4
15	Nb4	Nc5
16	Re1	b5
17	Nc3	Nc7
18	Qb3	e5
19	a3	a4
20	Qd1	Nc7
21	Nc1	Ned5
22	Nd2	Re8
23	Nc4	Bf8
24	Nd4	Bb5
25	Re2	Be7
26	Rac2	Rb6
27	Qd2	Rf8
28	h4	Ne8
29	Ne3	Ng7
30	Nc3	Nc3
31	Rac3	g5
32	h5	g4
33	Ng4	Bd6
34	g4	Bg4
35	Rf3	Bd8
36	Ne5	Nf5
37	d5	Bxg5
38	Re5	Rb7
39	Kf2	Rg7
40	Bf3	Bh5
41	Rf4	Kh8
42	Bd5	exd5
43	Bf4	Qe8
44	Bf6	Bg4
45	Bc7+	Kf7
46	Rc7+	Kh8
47	e5	Qc5+
48	Kg1	Qc5
49	Kf2	Qc5
50	Kg3	Qc5

Diagram of final position



White: Gata Kamsky

Black: Valery Salov

Sanghi Nagar, Game 3,

February 1995

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	d5
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bd7
4	Nf3	Nf6
5	Bg5	h6
6	Bh4	Nd7
7	e3	O-O
8	Re1	c6
9	Bd3	dxc4
10	Bxc4	b5
11	Bd3	a6
12	a4	bxa4
13	Na4	Qa5+
14	Nd2	Bb4
15	Nc3	o5
16	Nb3	Qc4
17	O-O	Qd4
18	Nd4	Bd7
19	Be4	Qb8
20	Nc6	Bc6
21	Bxc6	Ra7
22	Bg3	Ne5
23	Qd4	Bd6
24	Ne4	Nxc6
25	Nd6+	g4
26	Rxc6	Be5
27	Qg4+	Kf7
28	Qe4+	Kf7
29	h4	Ke7
30	Be1	Kf8
31	Rf3	Kf8
32	Rg3+	Kh8
33	h3	Qd5
34	Qc2	Bd8
35	e4	Black resigns

Winning Move, page 44

Britain 'unable to fight killer viruses'

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN would be ill-equipped to deal with the arrival of deadly animal-borne viruses from Africa or Asia, a leading expert claims today.

Professor David Bishop, director of the Institute of Virology and Environmental Microbiology at Oxford, says that some viruses are so easily spread and so lethal that they should be treated with the same concern as the plague was centuries ago.

The Ebola and Marburg viruses, among the most dangerous known, have already been carried to Germany and America with consignments of animals. Some strains can be transmitted in the air, by bite, or by contact with body fluids. They affect virtually every organ in the body, turning tissues into a highly infectious mush, and are extremely difficult to control.

"Human fatality rates with these strains have ranged between 30 per cent and 88 per cent," Professor Bishop writes in the *SGM Quarterly*, the journal of the Society for General Microbiology. "There are no vaccines, and no therapies."

When a strain of the Ebola virus was identified in research monkeys at Reston, Virginia, in 1989, extreme measures were taken to control it. The laboratory was sealed and all the monkeys destroyed by workers wearing special suits to protect them from contamination.

Professor Bishop questions whether the problem would have been identified so promptly or dealt with so proficiently in Britain. "The major issue is how one can be sure that wild animals imported into Britain have been properly screened," he says. "At present they can pass through London airport and into RSPCA facilities, all leading to potential exposure."

No British laboratory is studying these viruses, Professor Bishop says, and only one has the necessary containment facilities for doing so — at Porton Down, near Salisbury. He says the ideal answer would be to test and quarantine animals at their source, to ensure they were free of infection before they travelled.

'Condemning people for sins is not the way I would want to go about it'

Carey rejects attack by archdeacon on church leadership

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has fiercely rejected allegations by the Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin, that the Church had "lapsed moral leadership". Dr Carey accused the archdeacon of "mega-phone diplomacy or mega-phone theology".

In one of his strongest statements yet against a fellow cleric, Dr Carey yesterday condemned Mr Austin's attack as "slight and superficial". Referring to the archdeacon's claim that no bishops spoke out after the recent Dimbleby programme on the Prince of Wales, Dr Carey gave the clearest indication yet of the extent of his behind-the-scenes work with the Royal Family.

Dr Carey, speaking to Mike Woodruff on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday*, said: "What he [Mr Austin] cannot know, and perhaps hasn't attempted to find out, is that there are people such as myself, close enough to the Royal Family, giving guidance and leadership, but doing it in a pastoral way which of course cannot be broadcast. It is simply that kind of relationship which is deeply personal. Now we have to recognise that there are different levels through which

the Christian faith is communicated but preaching through the headlines and condemning people for sins, so-called sins done, is certainly not the way I would want to go about it."

In his book *Affairs of the State*, published yesterday by Hodder & Stoughton, Mr Austin says none of the bishops would speak out after the Dimbleby programme, "probably on instructions from on high". In fact, church leaders who did speak out at the time included the Bishops of Wakefield, Bradford, Blackburn, Carlisle and Bath and Wells. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, condemned

adultery as wrong, and Dr Carey spoke on national radio about the Christian gospel of repentance, unconditional love and forgiveness.

In his book Mr Austin says: "Woe betide a church leader who does make a moral statement, be it against political behaviour or royal misdemeanours. And the greater denunciation of the spokesman who steps out of line will come not from the State, but from the Church itself." Dr Carey, who is in Delhi, said: "I know George Austin, and like him as a man. I have to say that this is a very slight and superficial book of less than 150 pages, in which he makes judgments in which I simply do not recognise the Church of England."

"He has only got to look at utterances which I and the Archbishop of York and many leaders have made on morality and ethics in recent years to know that we are speaking out on so many different things and this has been welcomed by so many different people."

"I simply do not recognise the Church he describes. The character of Anglicanism, the character of the Church of England, is its ability to put up with difference and to tolerate one another."



Austin: accused bishops of keeping quiet



Carey: relationship with royals is deeply personal and cannot be broadcast

Man dies after freak fall in air pressure

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN died from suffocation after freak weather conditions caused a drop in air pressure which sucked carbon dioxide from old mine workings.

Don Tollen, 60, of Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, was walking through the Karva Woodcrafts factory unit at Widdrington Station, Northumberland, on Saturday, on his way to feed his niece's horse, accompanied by a family friend, David Wind, 8, and a pet dog. Mr Tollen and the dog collapsed and David ran to get help.

David's mother, Lesley Wind, 36, and her friend, Don's brother Eric, who owns the factory, dashed over to help but they too were overcome by the fumes. They were dragged out by a worker at the factory who was alerted by the lights. Don had been staying the weekend with Eric at his cottage next to the factory.

Eric Tollen and Lesley Wind were yesterday both said to be satisfactory in Wansbeck Hospital, Ashington, recovering from the effects of the "sytie".

An environmental health officer, Gordon Corbett, said: "Normally the ground 'breathes' as air pressure rises and falls. But when there is a sudden drop, gases are pushed to the surface and released into the air. In this area there are many old mine workings and carbon dioxide can be released from them when there is a sudden pressure drop. It pushes out breathable air."

Researchers back the creative spirit

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

TAKING a glass of wine or a nip of whisky won't aid your creativity, but thinking about it will, according to American psychologists.

Despite Ernest Hemingway's assertion that good writers are drinking writers, researchers have found that alcohol is of no help to the "ordinary" budding artist. Intoxication dulls the senses and impairs judgment, they say. But belief in the power of alcohol to unlock the creative impulse is so widespread that people fooled into thinking they have had a drink do show greater artistic ability.

In an experiment that will help bibulous writers save their livers as well as their wallets, psychologists have shown that belief in the power of a drug can be stronger than the drug itself. Scientists at the Research Institute on Addictions, Buffalo, New York, studied 116 men aged between

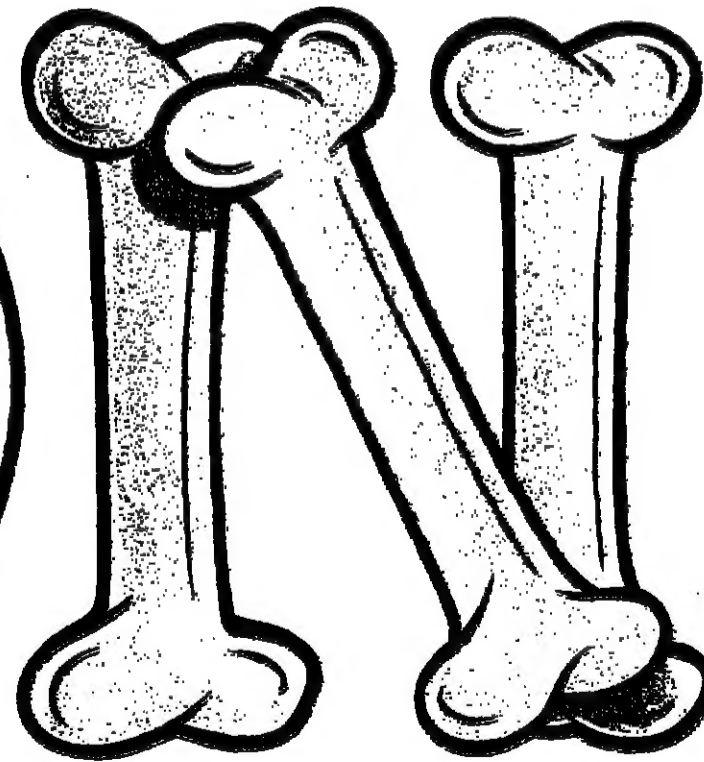
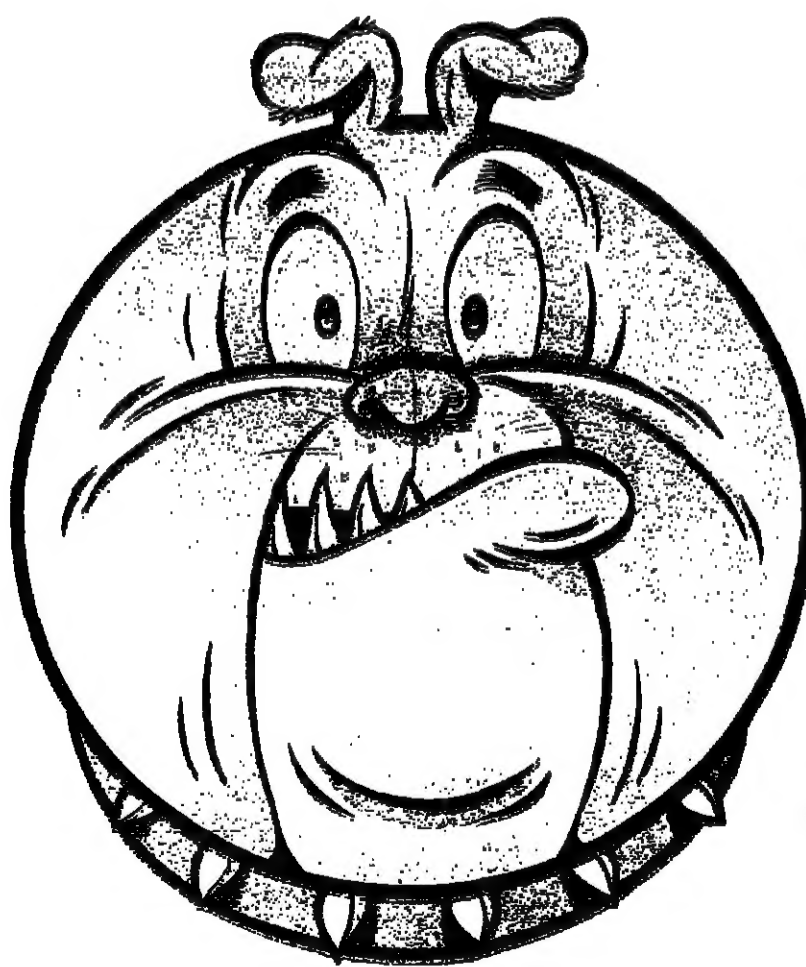
21 and 35, all of whom were moderate drinkers, to see what effect alcohol would have on their capacity to perform a "creative" task.

They were given tonic water or tonic water mixed with varying amounts of vodka, but not told which, and asked to sort picture cards of wildflowers into aesthetically pleasing groups. Those who had drunk the alcohol scored no higher than those who had drunk plain tonic water.

However, those who believed they had drunk alcohol, even if they were mistaken, performed significantly better than those who thought they had been given plain tonic. The psychologists say their results "support the idea that creative people probably gain inspiration from consuming alcohol". However, they add that this "may be due to the expected rather than the pharmacological effects".

GET ON TO LONDON

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THE TIMES Take your lover to Paris tomorrow

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The winner, who will be selected at random from all correct entries received by 1pm today, will be contacted this evening by the travel specialists Cox & Kings who will arrange your flights with British Airways and whisk you off to Charles de Gaulle airport tomorrow morning. Once in Paris you and your valentine will enjoy a champagne welcome, a romantic dinner and an overnight stay at the luxury Le Meridien Etoile, located on the Right Bank of the Seine and close to the Champs Elysees and

the Arc de Triomphe in the very heart of the city.

And Cox & Kings are also offering lovers everywhere the chance to enjoy savings of up to 50% at the Meridien Paris Montparnasse, situated on the Left Bank in the famous Latin Quarter. The offer is valid until March 31. For further details call Cox & Kings on 071 873 5005 and quote *The Times*.

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LONDON
ELECTRICITY

'The destruction remains a query against Allied bombing'

THERE are those who have claimed the bombing of Dresden as the greatest single night's slaughter in the history of Europe. Today, on its 50th anniversary, the debate continues over whether one of the most terrible air raids inflicted on a civilian population was a justifiable act of total war or a heinous and unnecessary crime.

On the night of February 13, 1945, a swarm of 786 British heavy bombers, flying in two waves three hours apart, took off from eastern England and flew one of the deepest missions yet attempted into the heart of Germany. They dropped 2,647 tons of bombs, including 650,000 incendiaries, on the hitherto largely undamaged city of Dresden, magnificent baroque capital of Saxony.

The effect was awesome. The incendiaries created a firestorm that covered 12

As part of an occasional series leading up to the VE-Day commemorations in May, Alan Hamilton looks at how death came to Dresden



square miles, could be seen by bomber crews 200 miles away, and reduced the city, once known for its superb architecture as the Florence of the Elbe, to a smoking ruin that burnt for seven days and nights. Next day, last any stone be left standing, 316 American bombers attacked the city again, and a further 211 on the day after that. Squads from the SS Depart-

ment of Death, sent in to bury the dead, recorded some 20,000 bodies, until the task overwhelmed them and they gave up counting. Witnesses spoke of many thousands more being bulldozed into mass graves, and yet more being burnt in huge funeral pyres in the city square to prevent a typhus epidemic. Revisionist historians in the 1960s set for a death toll of

135,000, far greater than that from the week-long destruction of Hamburg and more than double the number who died instantly at Hiroshima. But recent research has attempted greatly to diminish such claims; Friedrich Reichert, the latest German historian to investigate the episode, puts the death toll at nearer 25,000, with 21,200 registered as buried in Dresden cemetery, another 2,000 buried elsewhere, and a further 2,000 subsequently exhumed from the rubble.

The truth can never be known, although the Death Department claimed to have recovered and catalogued 37,000 wedding rings from the ashes. Such was the heat in the cellars beneath the roaring inferno above that many may have perished without trace. Dresden's population of 650,000 was swollen that night to double by a great tide

of refugees escaping from the advancing Red Army 70 miles to the east.

What is beyond doubt is that Dresden was a jewel of a city, a fount of art, architecture and music. Handel, Mozart, Weber, Chopin, Schumann and Bach all enjoyed its ambience. Its Frauenkirche was one of Europe's finest baroque cathedrals, and it had many more majestic buildings. What it did not have was any significant concentration of strategic industries, although it was an important railway centre for movements to and from the eastern front.

By February 1945, the war was going well for the Allies, with the Russians at the Oder and the British and Americans fast approaching the Rhine. But victory was not yet assured. Ten days before the raid Churchill went to Yalta where General Antonov, deputy chief of staff of the Red



Churchill: horrified by bombing of Dresden

Army, suggested that strategic bombing by the Allies would greatly assist the Soviet advance westward; he made no specific mention of Dresden. But his request was enough for the Allied commanders to

dust down Operation Thunderclap, a plan to bring Germany to its knees by sustained terror bombing of Berlin and other cities.

The war cabinet approved, and Sir Arthur Harris prepared Bomber Command for what was to be the most successful bombing raid of the war, delivering mass destruction with the lightest of casualties. Harris, who ended the war embittered at the lack of recognition for himself and Bomber Command and who departed to live in South Africa, wrote of the raid: "I know that the destruction of so large and splendid a city at this late stage of the war was considered unnecessary even by a good many people who admit that our earlier attacks were as fully justified as any other operation of the war. I will only say that the attack on Dresden was at the time considered a military necessity

by much more important people than myself."

The firestorm was no accident either. Harris and his crews had seen their effects in previous raids on Hamburg and Kassel, and well appreciated the effectiveness of overwhelming the local firefighters.

Churchill, who had approved the raid, was horrified by its result and tried to distance himself from it. In a memorandum to Lord Ismay on March 28 he wrote: "The moment has come when the bombing of German cities simply for the sake of increasing the terror, though under other pretexts, should be reviewed. The destruction of Dresden remains a serious query against the conduct of Allied bombing."

Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Neo-Nazis arrested, page 1

Cowering in our cellars, we died a thousand times

NO METAPHOR of hell can fully describe the firestorm that consumed the centre of Dresden in a night of unimaginable horror.

Countless thousands of citizens cowered in packed cellars, petrified with fright. Those who did not perish beneath falling masonry died from asphyxiation; others burnt to death in temperatures of 1,000C that melted aluminium saucepans into shapeless drips of metal.

The first raid created the myriad fires that took hold over 12 square miles. As the hot air rose, fresh oxygen-rich gales swept in from the edges as if driven by bellows to a forge. Survivors told of a noise like a thundering waterfall; the roar was of the official tornado created by the flames.

Trees were plucked from the earth, telegraph poles snapped like matchsticks, rescuers were sucked into the ferocious flames 30 feet long licked the streets, incinerating everything in their path. The firefighters were helpless.

Erika Diemel, who subsequently married an English-

THE VICTIMS

man and has lived in London for more than 40 years, was a 20-year-old clerk in the Dresden air-raid warning centre when the sirens sounded at 10pm on Shrove Tuesday night. A few hours before, the streets had been filled with children in carnival costume celebrating the last day before Lent.

"We heard on the local radio that many aircraft were heading for Dresden. We were just going down to our cellar when we saw the whole town be-



come floodlit with what we called Christmas trees — flares ready for the arrival of the bombers. At 10.15 the first bombs came down on us.

"One detonation after another shook the house, a strong four-storey building. The all-clear came after about half an hour. Thanking God that we had been spared, we all went upstairs and started to clear up."

What they saw was a city ablaze, the greedy flames approaching ever nearer their house. Then, at 1.30, came the second raid. "We went back down to the cellar, and more and more people rushed in. Each time the whistling noise of a heavy bomb came nearer we expected it would hit us. Some began to pray; others were numb with fear. It seemed endless; we died a thousand times."

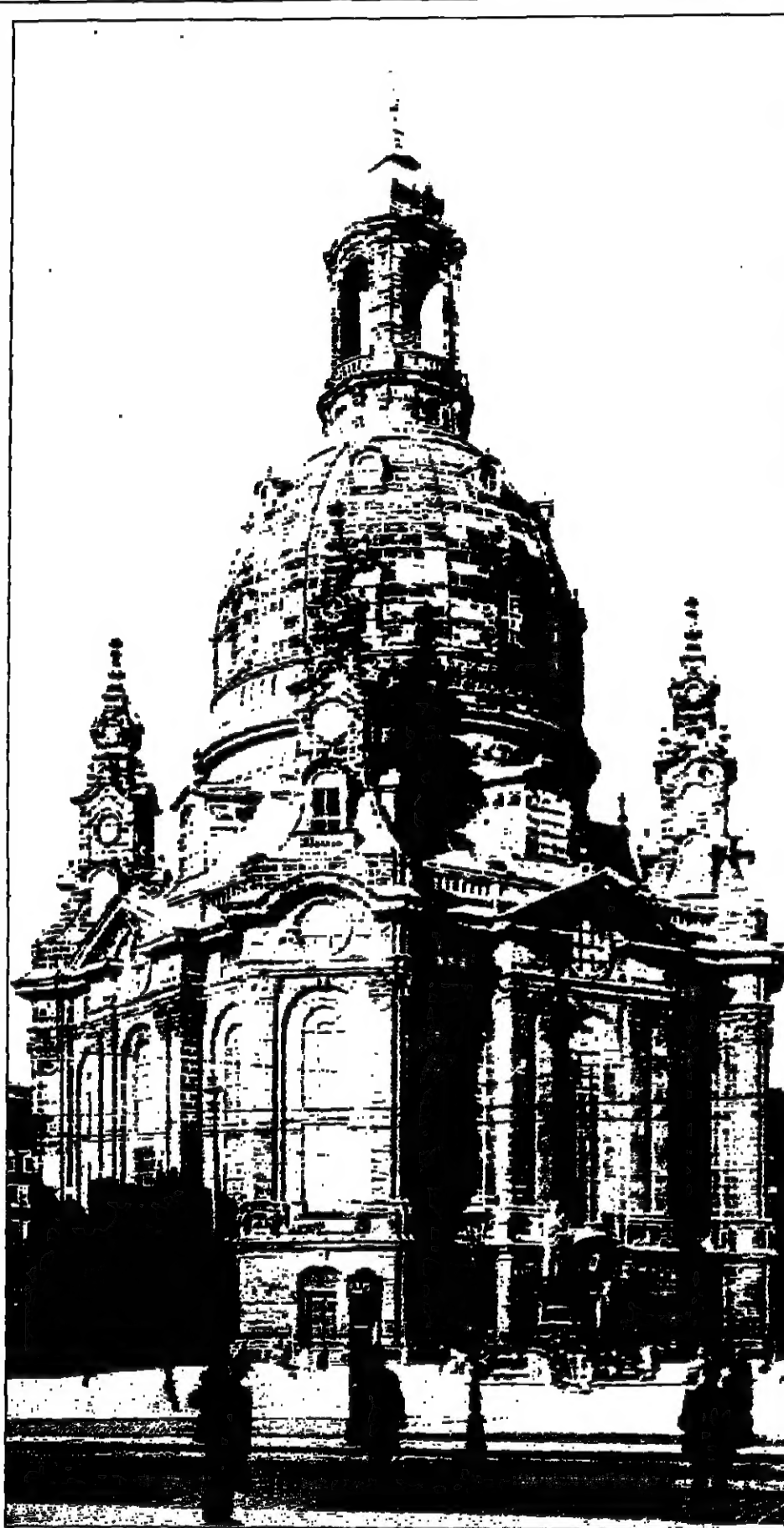
Then, all of a sudden, a tremendous bang shook us and we could hear the sizzling noise of fire. The smell of burning filled our nostrils; it was one of those dreadful petrol-filled bombs, and it had set our house on fire. Smoke filled the cellar. The staircase to safety was on fire. In that terrible panic, with more than 80 people crammed into the tiny space, one man — an air raid warden — saved us from certain death by promising to find us a way out.

He led his party through a labyrinth of catacombs, negotiating narrow holes knocked through the dividing walls as the city burnt above. The heat was almost unbearable but they made it to the open air, emerging at the banks of the River Elbe. Buildings collapsed around them and, had the river not been so close, the fire would have caught their hair and clothes, turning them into human candles.

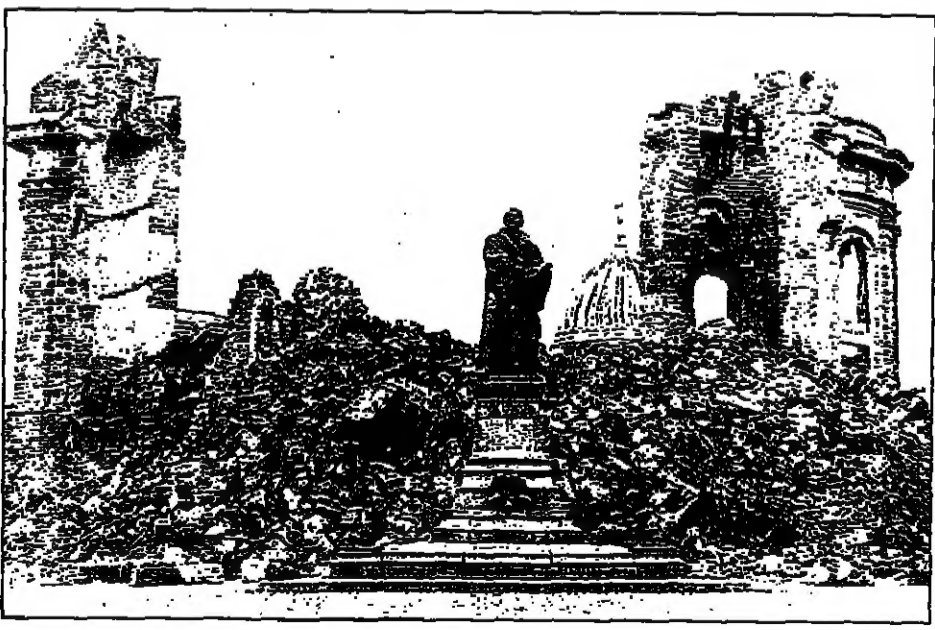
"Dresden was a mass of flames. People, burning like torches, were jumping into the river on this cold February night. I could hear screams and cries for help everywhere. We started to walk along the embankment towards a relative's house on the outskirts. Every building we passed stood in flames; under our feet there were bodies, nothing but bodies. Across the Elbe, even the hospital was burning, and I thought, 'Has nothing been spared this horror?'"

But Dresden's suffering was not yet over. With daylight came the Americans, bombing the ruins lest anything should be left standing while their Mustang fighters machine-gunned the endless, aimless columns of refugees, troops and homeless citizens making their way along the river banks.

Erika Diemel threw herself to the ground as the attackers returned. "This was the third raid in 14 hours. I never knew what hate was until that moment."



The ruins of the Frauenkirche became a memorial to the wartime dead



British pay to restore church's crowning glory

REBUILDING

TWENTY-FOUR hours after the bombers had left, the Frauenkirche heaved, groaned and collapsed in a great pile of dust and rubble. George Bähr's cathedral, one of the great baroque churches in Europe, had been mortally wounded by fire and shock.

The East German communist regime saw little profit in restoring religious buildings and built recreances of concrete around what had boasted one of the world's largest masonry domes.

The Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) became Germany's most prominent wartime ruin, carrying a memorial plaque. But when the Berlin Wall was pulled down in 1989, the mood swung towards restoration. It is now being rebuilt, with £165 million of mainly German money financing a project expected to last at least eight years. It will be one of the largest such projects, and a small but significant part of the effort will be British.

Britions have been quietly involved in the rebuilding of Dresden for nearly 30 years. In 1965 clergy at Coventry Cathedral organised a party of British university students to become builders' labourers, helping to reconstruct the Diakonissen, a hospital that had been destroyed in the raid.

A spirit of friendship was forged. Coventry, whose bombing casualties are numbered in mere hundreds, is closely involved in tonight's memorial events in Dresden. One of those students is holding her own concert in Cambridge tonight to mark the event and raise money for the rebuilding of the 1753 cathedral.

Alan Russell, a retired European Union official who set up the Dresden Trust with the aim of providing a British contribution to the rebuilding, said: "Dresden is something that lurks in the darker corners of the British national consciousness. We hope that the rebuilding will be the vibrant symbol of a new future."

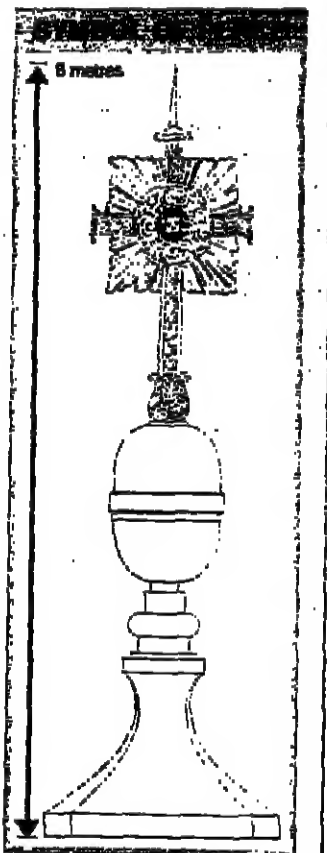
The Queen has contributed an undisclosed amount, despite having received a cool reception in Dresden during her otherwise acclaimed visit to the reunified Germany in 1992; memories of her mother attending the unveiling of the statue of Sir Arthur Harris in the Strand still burnt fresh in the German memory. Last month Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Overseas Development Minister, handed over a £50,000 cheque on behalf of the Government. The trust hopes to raise £250,000 from British sources.

This contribution will be a small part of a far grander plan that is essentially German. It will, however, pay

for the church's crowning glory, a copy of the 30ft gold orb and cross that surmounted the dome. Peter Nardini, an architect from South Bank University in London, has already been to Dresden and has found and photographed the original, damaged beyond repair.

The new cross will be made by British craftsmen. Enough money is likely to be left over to fund a British chapel in the crypt. "We are not taking sides," Mr Russell said yesterday. "We hope this will be a memorial to the innocent victims of bombing everywhere."

When the rubble was first cleared last year, local people were allowed to inspect the ruins more closely.



The 30ft orb and cross that will top the dome

Despite temperatures of minus 10C, 22,000 people visited the church in one day. The restoration will use about a third of the original stones and two original fire-scorched columns will be incorporated into the rebuilt church. The trumpeter Ludwig Gutler, a key fundraiser, said they would serve the role of a war memorial. "We think that these scars should still be seen."

The high cost of restoration brought back the critics who tried to stamp on the project in 1990, many of them clergy. A leading churchman said: "At a time when so many Saxon apartments lacked indoor lavatories and baths, nobody can claim that there is an urgent need for another church with seating for 3,600."

Babies brought breath of life to city's carnage

FROM ROGER BOYES IN DRESDEN

TO BE 50 in Dresden is to be both blessed and branded by history. Today 20 "firebomb babies" will be celebrating their birthday — children born between the RAF raids, in cellars and crypts as the flames crept closer.

The 13th came in the midst of the carnival season, an occasion for modest costume parties. Eberhard Grundmann's father was playing cards at the pub when he was told to return home as his wife was about to give birth. He reached his house in time for the birth — and just before the

THE SURVIVORS

first bombs fell. Eberhard was born in a flooded cellar as the roof overhead blazed and crumpled. "I grew up among the ruins, and the bombed-out zones were our playground," he said.

Bettina Martin, now 58, was dressed in a Red Indian party costume when the raids started. She ran to her heavily-pregnant mother and they fled from one half shelter to another. They headed for a pond normally used by fire engines. "The rest of the night we cowered next to the water. Around us the trees were burning and phospho-

rous dripped. People, still on fire, ran past us and threw themselves into the pond. Later they dredged 40 bodies out of the water."

At daybreak mother and daughter made their way to a bunker, directed by a woman dressed only in a bathing suit and boots. "Mother lay down on a table and my brother came to the world."

Ursula Wilde was 24 at the time of the raid. "When the first bombardment came we realised it was going to be heavy," she said. Wearing soaked sheets against the heat, Frau Wilde and her family found shelter in the crypt of the baroque Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady). But when sparks fell down the air vents of the church, and the oxygen became thin, the family had to move on. "We made for the Elbe and trudged down the embankment tripping over and treading on dark shapes that we later realised were bodies."

Frau Wilde remembers returning to her home a month after the raid. "I had to burrow through three cellars to reach ours, and there sitting in a circle were neighbours and friends, looking dirty but normal, absolutely dead — suffocated by the fumes."

THE AIRCREW

mid-upper gunner with Squadron 9J of 5 Group, Bomber Command, was posted in a greenhouse atop a Lancaster's fuselage. He had far more than his quota of luck, and went on to fly seven further missions before the war's end. He was aged 19. They took off at 6pm, under a low, moonless sky and flew south to rendezvous with the rest of the first wave, a swarm of 244 bombers heading east in a formation two miles wide and 1,000 feet deep, the growl of their Rolls-Royce engines playing an accompaniment of menace.

They crossed the Continent untroubled by the Luftwaffe, and by only

very occasional light flak. Their enemy, at 18,000ft, was the cold. "Icicles grew on my oxygen mask; my electrically heated flying suit frequently failed."

By the time the undefended city was within sight of Flight Sergeant Bennett's seven-man Lancaster crew just before 11pm, the action had begun. "On the ground I could see the sparkling lights of the first incendiaries, and the first markers, brilliant red and green like a giant display of Roman candles. I could see the first fires starting — lots of individual fires that were clearly going to spread and join up."

Ten miles from his target, Flight Sergeant Bennett's Lancaster began its level run above broken cloud. As

the bomb doors opened to release 4,000lb of incendiaries, cold air rushed in. "After the bombs had gone, we had to continue on the same course for a bit longer, while the camera photographed our hit: those seconds were always a lifetime. You just wanted to get the hell out of there."

By the time the second wave of 529 bombers approached at 1.30am, an inferno was raging; crews reported seeing the firestorm when they were still 200 miles from the city. As they reached their target, navigators left their seats to gaze aghast on a spectacle the like of which they had never seen. Dresden was a city whose every street was etched with fire. The sky blazed scarlet and white. Crewmen filled in their log sheets by

the eerie light that filled their cockpits; their bodies felt the hot breath rising from the furnace. "It was the first time I ever felt sorry for the Germans," a bomb-aimer later recalled. "But my sorrow lasted only for a few seconds; the job was to hit the enemy and to hit him very hard."

Mr Bennett now lives in retirement in Hertfordshire. "I never gave Dresden another thought until years later, when the controversy began to emerge. Dresden is not on my conscience, any more than any other mission I flew on. The wickedness of war is that people get killed. A great many were killed in Dresden, but you must remember that we were fighting, and risking our adolescent lives to defeat a greater evil."



Flt Sgt Bennett today



Bennett in wartime

Brass bands rally to beat shortage of young recruits

By PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S brass band tradition is under threat from cuts in education funding. Music tuition has fallen victim to contracting school budgets and the flow of young players into the bands has dwindled to a trickle.

Jack Birns, secretary of the brass band association in Yorkshire, heartland of the movement, said: "Bands are having trouble finding players because the young ones are not coming through from the schools. Some have had to amalgamate to survive."

"Many local authorities have ceased providing instrumental tuition as part of the school curriculum. Parents who want their children taught to play have to pay."

The biggest blow has been the cut in peripatetic teachers. Now that schools have their own budgets, only the largest can afford music lessons or a wide selection of instruments.

In addition, Mr Birns says, school bands have switched

from brass to wind. "Children are being lost to the brass band movement. It applies all over the country."

The number of bands in Britain has been declining steadily, from about 40,000 at the turn of the century to about 1,400 today, despite a revival about 25 years ago. Although most have weathered the closure of collieries, factories and mills that traditionally sponsored works bands, in Yorkshire for example, there are far fewer today than in the immediate post-war years.

David Read, education officer of the British Federation of Brass Bands, agreed that the loss of peripatetic teachers was worrying. "Some parents are prepared to pay for lessons privately, but they also have to buy their own instrument and no parent is going to fork out up to £3,000 for a euphonium. They will pick instruments which are cheaper."

Many bands are tackling the problem by forming their

own youth sections. The Clifton and Lightcliffe Band, which has been playing in West Yorkshire for more than 150 years, is expanding.

Help has also come from one of the country's largest instrument suppliers, Norman's. The Burton on Trent firm has set up its own programme. "We suddenly realised that as music teaching stopped we would lose a large section of our business," Gareth Haines, education director of Norman's, said. Now he runs a non-profit-making department employing 150 teachers touring 700 schools from Devon to Carlisle.

"The number of children receiving tuition has doubled to 10,000 in the last year as more schools take up the idea," he said. For £12 a month, a pupil receives weekly lessons, an instrument which is owned after three years, and the necessary books.

Education, page 37



The Clifton and Lightcliffe Band, of West Yorkshire, in rehearsal yesterday

Trading officers expose myths in health pill claims

By TONY DAWE

A CAMPAIGN against companies that sell phoney health and fitness products is likely to lead to a wave of prosecutions.

Trading standards officers in Gloucestershire found "multivitamin" pills that did not contain any vitamin A or D, "muscle-building" tablets that contained no more than 1 per cent of the adult daily requirement for protein, and diet capsules available at 50p a pot that were sold for £8 by mail order.

They brought their first successful prosecution last week against Horleys Health of Berkshire, which was fined £2,000 for selling Protein 90 Plus, a powdered body-building supplement which contained only 83 per cent protein. Five more charges are expected to be laid shortly against other companies, and other trading standards departments are investigating producers in their areas.

Paul Galland, head of Gloucestershire's trading standards, said: "The high number of problem samples uncovered in this survey has

confirmed that some companies, mostly operating on a mail-order basis, are preying on the legitimate desire of many people to lead a healthier lifestyle. Some people are being exploited and misled."

Among the false claims investigated was one for a health product said to be "rich in guaranine, a natural and potent nutrient" which "supplements our own natural resources and so greatly enhances our joy of life". Mr Galland said: "How many people would buy this product if they knew that guaranine is in fact caffeine?"

Another claim was for a "revolutionary supplement for body-builders which acts as a catalyst ensuring that every nutrient you eat is absorbed", but which contained no compounds to achieve this effect. The Gloucestershire officers began their investigation after seeing "outrageous claims" in mail-order advertisements in body-building and fitness magazines and national newspapers. John Brian, senior enforcement officer, said.

Most YTS workers 'quit courses early'

By A STAFF REPORTER

UP TO 60 per cent of young people who attend the Government's Youth Training scheme have no qualification when they leave, according to a survey published today.

Half of all youth trainees do not find a job at the end of their training and 58 per cent leave early. Kevin Barron, Labour's training spokesman, reported.

Mr Barron, who used figures supplied in written parliamentary replies by James Pate, an Employment Min-

ister, called for an investigation by the Employment Department into why so many young people were being "failed" by the system.

The Employment Department said that more than four million 16 and 17-year-olds had benefited from Youth Training in the past 12 years. Three out of four left the scheme to find a job or go into further education and training, and 72 per cent gained some form of qualification, the department said.

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Fighting in Bihac threatens to melt uneasy Bosnia truce

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

FRESH clashes along front lines which have been peaceful since a six-week truce took hold are threatening to undo the Bosnia-wide ceasefire and raising the spectre of a renewed war as the winter snows melt.

Bosnian Serb forces and the mainly Muslim government troops have resumed combat around the town of Bosanska Krupa, along the eastern edge of the northwestern Bihac pocket. "Bihac has been the main area of difficulty since the ceasefire started," Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward, a United Nations spokesman said. "But this is the first time we have seen straight Bosnian army and Serb fighting. It has calmed down enormously for today, it will be telling to see whether fighting flares up again tomorrow," he said last night.

So far, the clashes have been mostly between government forces and Croatian Serbs from across the border and a small army of renegade Muslims they have been backing. "For the first time since November we have had fighting on three fronts" around Bihac, the British colonel said. The reactivated front around Bosanska Krupa may be a Serb attempt to draw government units away from the combat near Velika Kladusa and to gain ground while the Bosnian army is occupied in

other parts of the enclave. Over the weekend, the opposing armies exchanged more than 1,500 artillery, tank and mortar shells around Bihac. It was some of the most worrisome clashes in Bosnia in more than a month, Colonel Coward said.

For the first time in weeks, Bihac town, a UN-declared "safe area", is being directly targeted by Serb gunners.



another UN official said. Continuous heavy fighting around the town of Velika Kladusa, along the enclave's northern border, had earlier threatened to unravel the ceasefire accord. But the Bosnian Government, angry over continued attacks in the area, decided that they were not enough to jeopardise the accord in the rest of the country.

Both sides seemed prepared to accept localised fighting in that area. With fighting spreading, however, the Sar-

ajevo Government may rethink its response. In an effort to preserve the ceasefire and encourage further co-operation between the two sides, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia, travelled to central Bosnia to meet General Rasim Delic, the officer in command of the Bosnian army.

General Delic has refused to participate in key working discussions for separation of combat troops and defuse tensions, citing the developments around Bihac. "The ceasefire is hanging by a thread," he said in a letter to General Smith in which he accused the Serbs of reneging on the ceasefire and truce agreements.

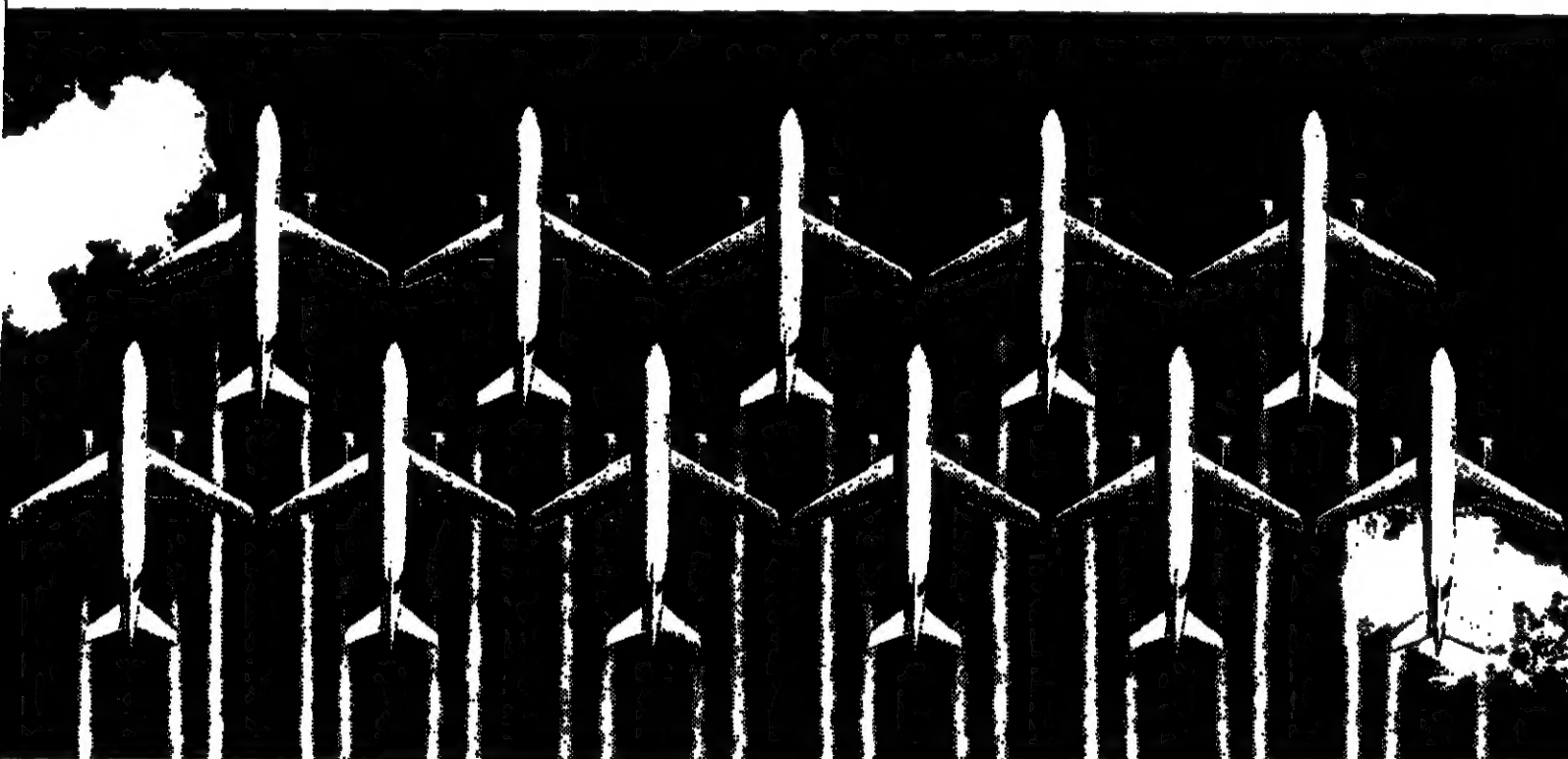
In Sarajevo, a Serb sniper shot and critically wounded a 16-year-old boy and shot a 42-year-old man in the arm yesterday, the UN reported. They were the first two sniping incidents in several weeks of unusual calm in the Bosnian capital.

Supplies resume: International aid flights to Sarajevo, which supply about 80 per cent of the city's food, will resume today after a two-day suspension, the UN announced. The air bridge to the besieged capital was suspended on Friday amid tension over revenge detentions of civilians by the warring factions in Sarajevo. (Reuters)



Sunshine beams through the stained-glass windows of Sarajevo's main cathedral yesterday as Bosnian Catholics took advantage of the ceasefire to attend Mass

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Yeltsin resorts to mystic as remedy for ills

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

Fears that President Yeltsin is emulating his Soviet predecessors have received support from an unexpected source: he is reported to be receiving help from the same mystic faith healer who soothed the declining years of Leonid Brezhnev, the late Soviet leader.

Djuna Davitashvili, self-styled "channeller of bio-energy" and head of a "school for alternative medicine", is a curious figure. Thanks to a former husband, her surname is Georgian, but she is in fact of Assyrian origin, the people of Nineveh and Assur. Some 20,000 Assyrians live in the former Soviet Union, descendants of refugees who fled from Muslim persecution. Mrs Davitashvili is the chairman of the "Ancient Order of Assyrians" in Russia. She is also a Russian monarchist and has been known to hand out noble "titles" to believers in her powers, on what authority it is not exactly clear.

Mrs Davitashvili, aged an extremely approximate 45, claimed in a recent newspaper interview to be a frequent visitor to President Yeltsin, and to advise him on policy as well as boosting his bio-energy and practising "contactless" massage. The extent of her real influence is not clear, but Pavel Voshchanov, a former press secretary to Mr Yeltsin, says that in 1992 she was a frequent visitor.

Brezhnev's dependence on faith healers such as Mrs Davitashvili was used to discredit and mock him when Mikhail Gorbachev and his followers set out to denounce the former Soviet leadership. A leading part in that campaign was played by none other than Mr Gorbachev's then leading supporter, Mr Yeltsin.

Soviet leaders of Brezhnev's generation were often the children of peasant or recently peasant families. Their own childhoods were spent in an atmosphere of deep and ancient superstition, especially when it

came to folk medicine. These men were then given the smattering of a scientific and atheist education under communism, but as they grew old and sick, so ancient patterns of belief reasserted themselves.

The collapse of communism has produced a multiplicity of figures such as Mrs Davitashvili, especially in the fields of faith healing and communication with the dead. The opening-up of television has given particular opportunities and many of these figures have had famous clients. Mrs Davitashvili claims not just President Yeltsin but General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, among her intimates. A newspaper has reported that senior Russian officers consult her for horoscopes.

The most notorious faith healer in Russia's history, the debauched monk Grigori Rasputin, rose to be a confidant of Empress Alexandra, the wife of the doomed Nicholas II, mainly because of his ability through hypnosis to help her chronically sick son, Alexis.

Rasputin also gave both the Tsar and his wife a feeling of being in touch with the real Russia, the Russia of the peasants, over the heads of the sceptical courtiers. He assured them that Russia supported the Tsar. Mrs Davitashvili has said: "I consider that it is every citizen's duty to inform the President of the people's views."

While some observers see in Mr Yeltsin's alleged consultations with Mrs Davitashvili only a rather pathetic sign of his increasing illness and isolation, others have perceived more sinister factors. One theory being put forward by the President's critics is that Mrs Davitashvili's influence has been promoted by Alexander Korzhakov, the chief of presidential security and a key member of the group which now dominates Mr Yeltsin's entourage and policy-making.



Djuna Davitashvili, the healer who claims President Yeltsin as a client, and Rasputin



Chechens ready for ceasefire

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Russian army consolidated its hold on Grozny, the Chechen capital, at the weekend, as rebel forces regrouped in the rest of the country.

The Chechen command has moved its headquarters from Grozny to Shali, 12 miles to the south-east. General Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of staff, yesterday said that his soldiers have agreed to a ceasefire proposed by the Government of neighbouring Ingushetia, so that prisoners could be exchanged.

General Maskhadov said that negotiations with the Russian army could begin. Previous such offers have been rejected by Moscow.

Almost half of Chechnya is still controlled by rebel forces. However, Chechen opposition to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, their leader, appears to be becoming more active.

Tomorrow, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, for talks in Stockholm, at which Chechnya will be at the top of the agenda. Nato expansion eastwards will also be discussed. The meeting is expected to mark the end of a cooling in relations between London and Moscow over the war in Chechnya.

Bossi starts party on 'moral' crusade

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

UMBERTO BOSSI, the leader of Italy's devolutionist Northern League, received a standing ovation from delegates at a national congress yesterday after pledging to create a "great national party" of moral salvation.

Signor Bossi charmed 600 delegates and 5,000 party militants at the three-day ex-



Bossi: charmed 600 delegates in Milan

travaganza in Milan by offering his resignation, a proposal he rejected unanimously. He also indicated that he plans to join forces with the majority of the former Christian Democrat Italian People's Party (PPI) and the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) in a new centre-left alliance to prevent Gianfranco Fini, the Na-

tional Alliance leader, and Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, winning a general election and creating "a new Fascist regime". The Congress saw further defections from the League parliamentary group among MPs disillusioned with Signor Bossi's dictatorial style. They included Roberto Maroni, the former Interior Minister in the Berlusconi Government, who announced he was leaving the party but would take a break from politics.

Signor Bossi now has 77 MPs in the Chamber of Deputies compared with 117 after last March's election but shrugged off the losses, saying the League would "begin the penetration of the South" and change its name to the "Italian Federal Party".

"I pray those who want to leave to do it today," he said to wild applause. "because from tomorrow the League will cauterise its wounds and re-launch the attack... the long march can begin again."

Signor Bossi said the League would remain a centre party but added that he would form "a Front of national liberation from the Fascists" if the Government did not pass anti-trust legislation to curb the television monopoly enjoyed by Signor Berlusconi before the election campaign officially begins.

Skinheads mar vigil in Vienna

FROM REUTERS IN VIENNA

SKINHEADS in Vienna trampled on candles lit in memory of four gypsies murdered last week in the worst suspected neo-Nazi bomb attack in Austria since the Second World War, human rights activists said yesterday.

Members of the human rights organisation SOS-Minuten held an all-night vigil at the site of the wartime Nazi Gestapo headquarters in Vienna and on steps leading to the city's oldest church, the Ruprechtskirche, on Saturday and yesterday.

Two groups of skinheads kicked and stamped on scores of candles placed on the steps leading to the church in the early hours yesterday, the Austrian news agency APA quoted activists as saying. The skinheads shouted racist slogans, according to the agency. Franz Loeschner, the Interior Minister, pledged yesterday to redouble efforts to quash the network of right-wing extremism in Austria, "using all possible technical means", including telephone bugging.

The vigil began hours after the four gypsies, all Austrian citizens, were buried in their home town of Oberwart, 60 miles south of Vienna, where they were killed in the bomb blast last week.

Mexican peasants vow war as the army tightens noose

By DAVID ADAMS

THREE days after the Mexican Government launched a military offensive to crush a 13-month peasant revolt in Chiapas, the noose appears to be tightening on the retreating rebels.

Attention was distracted from events in the southern state of Chiapas by yesterday's important local elections in the central state of Jalisco, where the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of President Zedillo is facing potentially its most serious defeat in 66 years in power.

Polls opened normally and voting was reportedly uneventful in the state capital, Guadalajara, the country's second-largest city. The tough image Señor Zedillo is trying to project in Chiapas may help him to rally support from voters in Jalisco. But it may be too late. Pre-election polls have put the ruling party 15 per cent behind the opposition National Action Party.

Observers fear a violent reaction from government supporters if the party loses. That would augur badly for a string of local elections in the next few months, running across the country from Baja California in the north, through central Mexico, to Yucatan in the south. Al-

though Mexican troops have denied journalists access to the area of military operations in Chiapas, reports from residents fleeing small, isolated villages indicate that the army's strategy is to encircle the greatly outnumbered Zapatista National Liberation Army and force a surrender.

The army's game of cat and mouse received a boost at the weekend when Guatemala announced that its armed forces would co-operate by reinforcing the border with Mexico, cutting off an escape route.

Mexico's Defence Ministry says it has deployed 2,500 troops, 31 aircraft, 30 tanks and 32 armoured cars in the manhunt for five Zapatista chiefs. But it seems, for the time being at least, that the army may have been outwitted by the rebels' chief strategist, Rafael Guillén, alias Subcomandante Marcos.

According to a letter and statements by Marcos, published at the weekend, the Zapatistas were clearly expecting and had prepared for an attack by the Government. This would explain the apparent ease with which their forces slipped away into the mountainous rain forest, leaving barely a trace. They (the Government) have been trick-

ing us. They have been taking their time so they can attack us in the time of drought, of hunger," Señor Marcos told reporters from the Mexico City daily, *La Jornada*, in an interview at a rebel camp hours before troops launched their assault. "They think we are desperate and do not take into account that we prepared for this," he said. "What will follow, if no one stops it, is a guerrilla war."

Public reaction to Señor Zedillo's Chiapas offensive has been mixed. A poll published in *Reforma* found that 52 per cent approved, but 63 per cent predicted that the capture of the rebel leaders would not end the conflict.

At an anti-Government rally in Mexico City, Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, president of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party, said: "We would not like to think that the cost of these measures will be the oil and blood of the Mexican people." That was a clear reference to the \$50 billion (£32 billion) rescue package put together by President Clinton.

Señor Zedillo was under increasing pressure to restore investor confidence, and this may have influenced his decision to try to crush the revolt.



A child watches as a Mexican soldier stands guard in San Cristobal Las Casas during a hunt for rebel leaders

WORLD SUMMARY

Ecuador destroys Peruvian aircraft

Lima: President Fujimori of Peru said that a 17-day-old border conflict with Ecuador was edging towards a dangerous escalation after three warplanes were shot down by Ecuadorian anti-aircraft fire in the disputed frontier area.

Two Russian-built Sukhoi warplanes and an American-built A37 fighter aircraft were brought down on Friday during a bombing mission in the area of Tiviza, a key hilltop base about a mile inside Peru which remains in Ecuadorian hands despite a week-long siege, President Fujimori said. However, he ruled out an invasion of Ecuador.

In Quito, an Ecuadorian army general said that the Peruvian bombing raids were aimed at weakening Ecuadorian positions. "We think this is the prelude to a large-scale attack," (Reuters)

Prying tax men break the law

Sydney: Tax officials have been caught spying on the financial and personal life of some of Australia's most prominent citizens, including Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, a newspaper report alleges.

Among others whose privacy had been invaded were cricketers Allan Border and Shane Warne and rugby league players Andrew Eltinghausen and Mal Meninga. The paper said 13 tax officers had already been found guilty of serious breaches of privacy laws while action was pending against another three. (AFP)

Gallery marks bomb repairs

Florence: The works of more than 60 contemporary artists went on display in the Uffizi Gallery this weekend to mark the reopening of a room in the Renaissance palace that was badly damaged by a bomb in 1993. The exhibition, entitled "Compensation", is being held in the freshly-restored Royal Mail Room, whose 750ft long glass roof was destroyed in the explosion. Restoration was financed by public donations.

"Apart from celebrating the restoration of these important surroundings we are also here to hail the great solidarity shown for Florence and its international art heritage," Anna Maria Petrioli Tofani, the gallery director, said.

The bomb, blamed on the Mafia, killed five people, injured more than 50, and damaged more than 200 works of art. (Reuters)

Nominee sterilised mentally ill

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HENRY FOSTER, President Clinton's controversial choice to be America's Surgeon-General, was under new attack yesterday following the revelation that he performed hysterectomies to sterilise mentally retarded women 20 to 30 years ago.

Activist groups that had supported Dr Foster during last week's furor over his performing abortions turned against him. "I'm appalled," said Diane Welsh, president of the New York chapter of the National Organisation for Women. "We're utterly opposed to anything remotely resembling forced sterilisation."

Mr Clinton remained enthusiastically behind Dr Foster, 61, an obstetrician and gynaecologist from Nashville who is widely respected in his profession. He is also seen as a man of great compassion in his community where he has a programme called "I Have a Future" that rescues deprived teenagers among his fellow blacks from the perils of drugs and teenage pregnancies, giving them a sense of personal esteem, job training and family planning.

"We will fight for his nomination," said Leon Panetta, the President's Chief of Staff. The sterilisation disclosure had in no way changed the President's support, but it could clearly complicate the doctor's prospects on Capitol Hill, where the abortion feud already had Democrats and



Foster: seen as a man of great compassion

Republicans turning against his nomination as the nation's senior medical and health officer.

The sterilisation issue was made public by the White House itself where officials,

under attack for bungling the nomination, belatedly issued a sheaf of Dr Foster's writings and speeches. In a 1976 article in the *Southern Medical Journal* he wrote: "Recently, I have begun to use hysterectomy in patients with severe mental retardation" either to sterilise them or to eliminate menstrual periods "which is of significant hygienic benefit in these severely handicapped individuals". The White House said Dr Foster performed "a small number" of hysterectomies on the mentally retarded.

Authorities on the subject confirmed that such hysterectomies — removal of the uterus — were considered acceptable in "mainstream medicine" at the time. Since then, with new drugs and new attitudes, the practice has all but vanished. Dr Foster, like most physicians today, no longer considers sterilisation of retarded women by hysterectomy to be appropriate. Most US states now have stringent laws restricting sterilisation without consent.

Dr Foster should be an ideal candidate for Surgeon-General. Yet it seems likely that no one who has worked in gynae-

cology and obstetrics has a hope of appealing to the anti-abortion lobby.

To make matters worse, Dr Foster and the White House gave differing accounts of how many legal abortions he had performed — initially fewer than a dozen, then 39, plus a government drug trial in which 55 women terminated pregnancies.

"How could the White House stumble into a fight of these proportions?" asked Newt Gingrich, House Speaker. An angry Mr Clinton reportedly put a similar query to his advisers: "How do I answer the question that either this guy's lying or I've got an incredibly inept staff?" Mr Panetta was supposed to halt the Administration's history of botched nominations when he was appointed eight months ago. Yesterday he admitted that mistakes were still being made. "It takes a lot of work to bring all the sheep into the corral," he said.

The Foster nomination, overshadowing the budget and other legislation, has become so divisive that it may be withdrawn unless the doctor can rally sufficient votes.

O.J. Simpson taken on tour of sites linked to murders

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

The former American football star, O.J. Simpson, returned to his home ground yesterday for the first time since his arrest last year. Exercising his right to accompany his jury on a field trip to sites linked to the Brown-Goldman killings, he wore a concealed electronic device to stun him should he try to flee.

Much of the lush west Los Angeles district of Brentwood was expected to grid to a standstill as jurors, lawyers, Judge Lance Ito and Mr Simpson toured the area of the killings in convoy of vans. They were shielded from the media by the tinted glass of the vehicles and a cordon of 200 sheriff's deputies likened by local reporters to the protection given to an American president.

Press photographers were warned that they would be arrested if they tried taking pictures of the jurors, whose identities are secret. The judge said that anyone, press or bystander, taking photo-

graphs of the jurors would be held in contempt of court and automatically jailed.

Nevertheless, paparazzi were said to be offering Mr Simpson's neighbours on Rockingham Avenue daily rents starting at \$500 (£320) for space overlooking Mr Simpson's now-deserted home two miles from the scene of the killings.

The home visit, a ritual common to most Californian murder trials, looked yesterday as if it would be both a logistical nightmare and a grudge match between the prosecution team and the guardians of Mr Simpson's "nice-guy" image.

Its main purpose was to help jurors to visualise scenes repeatedly mentioned in court, such as the alley in which the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson, Mr Simpson's former wife, and Ronald Goldman were found. But a dispute started during a rehearsal for the trip conducted without the jury on Friday, when Cheri Lewis, the deputy

district attorney, objected to jurors being shown Mr Simpson's trophy room.

That shrine to the defendant's unmatched achievements on the American football field was irrelevant, Ms Lewis argued, and would prejudice jurors in his favour. Johnnie Cochran, a defence lawyer, countered that it was unfair to exclude areas that reflected well on his client. Judge Ito agreed.

Other places on the itinerary were Goldman's modest flat and the Mezzaluna restaurant near by, where he was a waiter and where Brown Simpson ate with her family on the night she died.

The judge had earlier encouraged jurors to dress down for the trip. Even though the court television camera is forbidden to film the jurors, they have responded to the publicity by dressing impeccably. Simpson denies murdering his former wife and her friend.



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PART OF NFC

Winnie Mandela faces ultimatum to resign

Ray Kennedy reports from Johannesburg on the latest political crisis resulting from the allegedly undemocratic behaviour of President Mandela's estranged wife

THE political career of Winnie Mandela, the controversial estranged wife of President Mandela of South Africa, was again in the balance last night despite efforts by her husband to resolve a crisis over her role in the powerful African National Congress Women's League.

Mrs Mandela was reported to be faced with a 24-hour ultimatum to resign as a deputy minister, while President Mandela held several hours of talks with the Women's League, which she heads, after the resignation of 11 executive members over her alleged undemocratic behaviour, bad leadership and unaccountability. President Mandela was said to be under great emotional strain over the issues.

After four hours of talks yesterday in Johannesburg with the Women's League, which Mrs Mandela did not attend, Lindwe Zulu, its spokesman, said the resignations would not be withdrawn unless Mr Mandela took action, even though the league was aware of the anguish the

matter was causing him. President Mandela said: "This is a matter that is entirely in the hands of the Women's League. They are in firm control." The President declined to make any further comment.

The league plays a pivotal role in the ANC's choice of leaders and general policy direction. Mrs Mandela's election to its presidency in 1993 surprised many within the organisation who felt that her political career was finished after her conviction for kidnapping. The case involved Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a teenage activist who was later murdered by her bodyguard. But she campaigned vigorously, particularly in the squatter camps and the most impoverished sectors of the black community where expectations are highest.

Until her trial in the kidnapping case — her five year sentence was reduced to a 15,000 rands (£2,700) fine on appeal — many considered her the "mother of the nation" during the 27 years of her husband's imprisonment. Last week, however, the Canadian Government refused her an entry visa because of her criminal background.

The resignations of 11 Women's League executive members is ostensibly linked to a decision by Mrs Mandela, without reference to other league leaders, to establish a tourist venture with Omar Sharif, the film star, called "Road to Freedom Tours". It aims to encourage black Americans to visit South Africa's "sites of struggle", including President Mandela's birthplace and his prison cell on Robben Island.

The differences between Mrs Mandela and the league



President Mandela and his estranged wife, Winnie, sit together for the formal opening of the new democratically elected parliament last May

executive go far deeper, however, and colleagues are deeply critical of what they consider to be her undemocratic decision-making, her lack of "transparency" and accountability and her "inability to unite women".

Mrs Mandela's appointment as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in the Government of National Unity after the elections last April has always been seen as a gesture of reconciliation by President Mandela to his estranged wife, for whom he retains deep affection despite her criminal conviction and her rabble-rousing political style. Never-

theless, as Women's League president she could have expected a Cabinet position and three of the women who have resigned from the league's executive are Cabinet members. Among the others is Adelaide Tambo, widow of Oliver Tambo, the former ANC President who died last year. She is one of the most influential and respected figures in the organisation in her own right.

Reports yesterday said that Mrs Mandela had been given 24 hours publicly to retract statements she made at the funeral of a policeman last week criticising the Government, or she will be dismissed

from her ministerial post. Government sources said there were strong feelings that she could not have it both ways: publicly criticising the Government while continuing to hold office. At the funeral of a warrant officer shot dead by white police officers during protests by black colleagues in Soweto, Mrs Mandela said that the Government had failed people like him because racism still existed in the workplace. She challenged the ANC leadership to demonstrate "whether we are in power or just in government".

President Mandela is reported to have told a meeting of ministers, deputy ministers and senior party officials in Pretoria that his wife's statements made him unhappy. In an unrelated but further blow to ANC unity, it was announced yesterday that Sam Shilowa, secretary-general of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the ANC's principal alliance partner, was resigning his position on the ANC national executive committee. A Cosatu official said that the dual role had caused a conflict of interests and interfered with trade union activities.

Ex-minister dead: Hendrik Schoeman, former Minister of Transport and leader of the House of Assembly in the

National Party Government of Mr P.W. Botha, was found shot dead on his farm at Delmas in the Eastern Transvaal yesterday. He was 67. A shotgun was found near by and the local police said that they did not suspect any crime.

Mr Schoeman, who had extensive maize farming interests, had a reputation of being one of the most jovial and down-to-earth members of previous National Party governments, but friends said that he had never recovered from the death of his eldest son, Christian, in similar circumstances several years ago.



Adelaide Tambo: highly respected in own right

Unita 'to honour peace'

FROM REUTERS IN LUANDA

THE Unita rebel movement in Angola agreed yesterday to honour a peace accord it signed with the Government three months ago aimed at ending Africa's longest and most costly civil war.

Unita, led by Jonas Savimbi, said that it adopted resolutions backing the peace process on the last day of its annual congress held in its central highlands headquarters of Bailundo.

The peace agreement had been in doubt because of Dr Savimbi's failure to attend its signing in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, last November and subsequent accusations by both sides of ceasefire violations. Dr Savimbi, under pressure from hardline elements in Unita, had previously de-

clined to express full support for the agreement or to reject it outright.

A Unita statement said: "Following an exhaustive debate, the congress adopted the following resolutions: the congress approves all plans for peace in Angola; the congress approves all steps towards national reconciliation."

The congress gave its backing to a meeting between President dos Santos and Dr Savimbi when the conditions were right. The two men have not met for years. Reacting to Unita's decision, Angolan state radio commented: "The idea of the men of arms returning to war was rejected by the congress members."

Unita, which has been fighting a bush war against the

ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) almost continuously since the country's independence from Portugal in 1975, called for a total amnesty for the whole civil war period.

Unita also welcomed last week's approval by the United Nations Security Council of the deployment of 7,000 peace-keeping troops in Angola. But it said it would have to be consulted over which countries took part in the peace-keeping operation. Britain is to supply at least 500 logistics experts.

The force has been designed to arrive in stages, leaving the UN the mobility to call off the mission at strategic intervals if a ceasefire and other agreements fall apart.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghan leader denies defeat

Pull-Alam: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Afghanistan's main opposition, yesterday denied a claim by a militant Islamic student movement that it had taken the eastern province of Logar from his forces.

He described the claim, which was made by a Taliban movement spokesman in Pakistan on Saturday, as a lie and told reporters at the provincial capital of Pull-Alam that the province remained under the control of his Hezb-i-Islami party.

In a statement issued in Peshawar, the party referred to Taliban as a "mercenary" movement. (Reuters)

Hostage freed

Managua: Gary Hicks, an American kidnapped by Nicaraguan bandits, has been freed, his Nicaraguan wife said. Susan Howard, a British reporter, had been released earlier. (Reuters)

River accident

Sao Paulo: Six people died and 30 were missing after a riverboat struck a floating log and sank on a deserted stretch of the Solimoes river in Brazil, a tributary of the Amazon. (Reuters)

Aid staff freed

Nairobi: Ten foreign aid workers held hostage for up to three days by Sudanese rebels arrived in the Kenyan capital tired but in good health. They worked for Médecins du Monde, Unicef and Swiss Disaster Relief. (AP)

Trouble brews

Papeete: Police, including reinforcements flown in from Paris, used teargas to quell rioters hurling stones and petrol bombs in French-ruled Tahiti in a conflict triggered by the sacking of two brewery workers. (Reuters)

Fair cabbie

Peking: An honest taxi driver returned to a Russian woman passenger a lost bag containing the equivalent of £19,000, a lifetime's wages for the average urban Chinese, it was reported. (Reuters)

Doom watch

Delhi: Indian scientists have produced a wrist watch that warns its wearer of nuclear radiation and is for use by the Indian Army in the event of a nuclear war. About 2,200 are being made. (AFP)

QE2 cruise refunds 'favour passengers from Britain'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A PASSENGER on the chaotic Christmas cruise of the QE2 is accusing Cunard, the ship's owner, of offering smaller refunds to its American customers than to those who booked their transatlantic voyage in Britain.

Andrew Coad, a British computer expert who has lived in America for the past 12

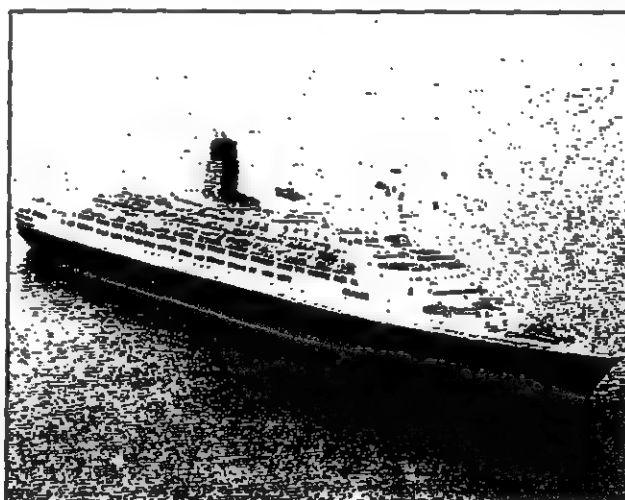
years, says Cunard has refused him the better settlement terms on offer in Britain because he bought his ticket in the United States. "Cunard is adopting a policy of divide-and-conquer," Mr Coad travelled on the QE2 with his wife Virginia and their two children, Jonathan and Kristin, on the ill-fated voyage during

which workmen struggled to finish a refit costing millions of pounds.

Mr Coad said that when the liner docked in Manhattan on December 22, John Olsen, Cunard's chief executive, offered passengers a full refund on the transatlantic crossing and a 25 per cent discount on a future Cunard cruise.

Later, a fellow passenger, Andrew Lennox, negotiated a better settlement through the Cunard office in London which provided for a full refund, a free transatlantic cruise this year, or an additional cash payment valued at 50 per cent of the refund. Estimating the difference at up to \$10,000 (£6,400), Mr Coad telephoned Cunard only to be told that the New York office would not honour an agreement made in Britain.

"Since most of the passengers who booked in the United States are American citizens, it appears that this action is unfair discrimination against US citizens," Mr Coad said. Cunard was unable to make an immediate comment on Mr Coad's charges.



Passengers had a chaotic journey on the luxury liner as workmen struggled to complete a refit

Texans gets dead serious on crime

BY JAMES BONE

TEXANS, long known for their love of "frontier justice", are flocking to join a new vigilante group that offers its members a \$5,000 (£3,250) reward for killing a criminal in the course of committing a crime.

Nearly 800 people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area have joined "Dead Serious" in the few weeks since it was set up by a part-time rock musician and convicted burglar named Darrell Frank.

For \$10 a year, members get two "Dead Serious" bumper stickers and a newsletter. But the main attraction is the \$5,000 bounty.

"Through our programme of giving \$5,000 to any Dead Serious member forced to kill a criminal in accordance with Texas penal code chapter 9, we are serving notice that we are through being afraid," boasts the group's publicity. "We are fighting back and will win."

The offer, although controversial, is completely legal. Texas law permits the use of lethal force in self-defence or, at night-time only, to defend private property.

Emphasising that its members are law-abiding citizens, Dead Serious says it will pay

out only when the authorities clear the killer of a criminal of any criminal misconduct.

But it does warn members: "If you only wound someone, that same criminal could sue you, come back and kill you, or commit other crimes which, when he is caught, would cost taxpayers to prosecute."

Mr Frank, 35, runs the group with his cousin Herb and his wife Vickie. He insists that he is just trying to scare criminals with the ultimate deterrent.

Asked about his own burglary conviction in 1977, he shrugs off the possibility that he himself might now be dead if he had been caught red-handed by a Dead Serious member.

"If my life had been on the line, it would have made a difference in me committing a crime," he said.

□ New York: Highly-paid informants are gaining increasing control over their government handlers, according to *The National Law Journal*. The journal says "law enforcement's reliance on informants has grown to almost Orwellian proportions as switches exert growing control over agents." (Reuters)

Politician alleges cover-up in Gandhi murder

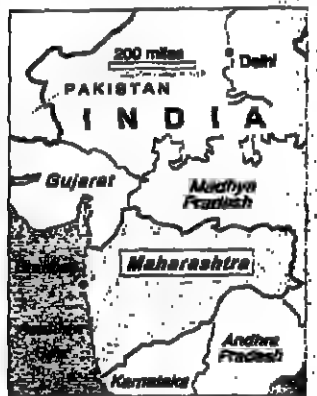
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

OPEN warfare broke out yesterday in India's governing Congress Party, which seems to be disintegrating amid corruption scandals, intrigues and leadership battles.

A new ingredient was added with suggestions of a high-level cover-up of events surrounding the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. Arjun Singh, a leadership contender and former Cabinet minister sacked from the party last week for indiscipline, released the text of a letter to the organisation's disciplinary action committee in which he referred to "the cover-up".

This was a rare public acknowledgement of years of whispered conspiracy theories, including the possibility of involvement by political rivals and enemies who did not want Gandhi to return to power in the 1991 election. The Gandhi-Nehru dynasty provided prime ministers for 37 of the 48 years of independence and crushed potential rivals.

Mr Singh's remarks were meant primarily for the ears of Gandhi's widow, Sonia, 48, who seems to favour him for the party leadership. She is pleased by his demands for a more thorough investigation of her husband's killing.



Many doubt that the Tamil Tigers alone were responsible for the assassination. One theory is that they acted as contract killers.

Any potential Congress Party leader needs the blessing of Mrs Gandhi, who wields behind-the-scenes influence as matriarch of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty. Another of her priorities is to halt discussion of the whereabouts of \$200 million (£128 million) in backhanders paid to unnamed Indian politicians by Bofors, the Swedish arms manufacturer, in exchange for contracts in the late 1980s.

Mr Singh said corruption scandals had affected the Government's credibility. He threw down the gauntlet as police and paramilitary forces spread out across the southwestern state of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, to oversee the second round of state elections.

Maharashtra, with 27 million voters, has been a Congress stronghold almost continuously for nearly half a century, but a coalition of Hindu nationalists is mounting a stiff challenge. Muslims, 10 per cent of the voters, have abandoned Congress because of its failure to protect them from Hindu violence.

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PLO claims accord in danger of 'complete collapse' following failure of summit

Clinton strives to revive Israeli talks with Arafat

FROM LAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON stepped into the Middle East peace process yesterday with what officials described as an attempt to "kick-start" deadlocked negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He attended a one-day meeting in Washington that also brought together the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt and

towards peace. American intervention to try to reconcile the adversaries was prompted by the failure to find any resolution during last Thursday's meeting between Yasser Arafat, PLO chairman, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

The two sides are at odds over the consequences of the Islamic Jihad suicide bomb attack that killed 21 Israelis more than three weeks ago. Israel is demanding a Palestinian crackdown on Muslim militant groups and has sealed off Gaza and the West Bank for security reasons.

The ban is keeping tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs in Israel, including a man who has won \$1.3 million in the Israeli lottery. He must deliver the winning ticket within six months or forfeit the prize.

The PLO is demanding an immediate halt to Israeli building new settlements on Palestinian lands.

The dispute is blocking organisation of Palestinian elections, next stage of the Israeli-PLO peace agreement signed on the White House lawn. Palestinian officials issued a warning before yesterday's

meeting that the peace process faced "complete collapse" because Israel was insisting on keeping troops in West Bank towns during the elections. This is a shift, brought about by the bombing, from Israel's undertaking in the agreement to withdraw them. The Clinton Administration is also coming under pressure from Congress to commit itself to moving the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem when Israeli-Palestinian talks on the city's contested status conclude.

New York's two senators, Alfonse D'Amato and Daniel Moynihan, are gathering signatures for a letter to Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State. The Administration is reluctant to prejudice the emotional issue of Jerusalem, sacred to Jews and Muslims as well as Christians.

Some in the PLO have proposed the novel idea that city should be the capital of two countries, Israel and Palestine, simultaneously.

In Bonn, Mahmoud Zahar, leader of Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist group, said yesterday it would boycott any elections in Palestinian self-rule areas.

New York: Human rights conditions in the Palestinian self-rule areas are so precarious they threaten to undermine peace initiatives in the area, Human Rights Watch-Middle East, said yesterday. The international monitoring group blamed both the Palestinian and Israeli officials for violations including unlawful arrests and repression. (AFP)

Jordan, plus a senior PLO negotiator. White House aides denied that Mr Clinton would be putting forward specific proposals, but he was clearly hoping to persuade Israel and its Arab neighbours to overcome problems that are jeopardising further progress

Egyptians spurn peace dividend

FROM GENEVE ARDO IN CAIRO

Israel and Egypt may no longer be a military threat to each other, but the economic and cultural benefits of the peace are all but non-existent.

Belly dancers offered up to \$65,000 to shake their hips in Israeli night clubs are refusing to take the hour's plane ride to Tel Aviv. A playwright who published a novel about his adventures in Israel now has three bodyguards. Fifteen years after Egypt became the first Arab country to make peace with the nation often referred to here as "the Zionist enemy", Egyptians are being left behind in reaping the benefits of the peace dividend.

The Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement signed at Camp David in 1979 never developed into wide economic and cultural co-operation. Since the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed a peace plan with Israel in 1993, Egypt has played the role of peace-maker. But as peace between Arabs and Jews sweeps the Middle East, Egypt has become a victim of its relationship with the Jewish state.

While Egypt's private business sector is anxious to trade its wares with its Israeli partners in a common Middle East market, the Government and society are opposed to normalising relations. Egyptian writers, artists and intellectuals are also finding it difficult to change with the

times. Books by Israeli authors were banned from Egypt's international book fair recently and Israeli films were excluded from the Cairo film festival in December. "We are not against peace, but against Israeli greed," Hamdi Gheith, director of the Egyptian actors' syndicate, said. "Israel still clings to the Golan, which has holy sites important to Arabs and Muslims, its capital. Israel still insists on setting up new settlements as well as expanding old ones," Mr Gheith said, referring to the expansion of Jewish homes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "Only when Israel gives up all this, can there be normalisation."

Members of Egypt's literary have harshly criticised Ali Salem, an Egyptian playwright for his book *Journey to Israel*. Mr Salem visited Israel last April. When he returned, he wrote a novel detailing his adventures and dispelling many myths that Egyptians have about Israelis.

The novel has caused such a stir that bookshops hide copies under the counter. Sales number at least 25,000 so far, but copies are sold only on request. Mr Salem has been criticised harshly by the public and his fellow writers and the Government has provided him with bodyguards.



Doron Goldin, of the outlawed Kach movement, holds up a prayer book as he is led into a Jerusalem court yesterday. He was arrested with home-made bombs

Iran's nuclear accord with Russia heightens US fears

BY LAN BRODIE

RUSSIA'S agreement to build nuclear reactors for Iran has caused concern in Washington that the deal will bring Tehran closer to possessing nuclear weapons.

Senior Republicans in Congress said that American economic assistance to Russia could be threatened - as a result. The Clinton Administration is deeply worried by the deal with the Government of President Rafsanjani. Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State in charge of organising the aid to President Yeltsin, said.

Despite repeated and strong objections by the US Government, Moscow is proceeding with a plan to help Iran to complete a nuclear power station in the Gulf port of Bushehr that has lain half-finished since the overthrow of the Shah 16 years ago.

The Russians have agreed to build as many as four



Rafsanjani at a weekend rally to mark the Islamic Revolution in Iran

commercial reactors on the site, and help to maintain existing small research reactors at Iranian universities in addition to building several more. Nuclear training for Iranian engineers is included in the package.

The total cost to Iran could reach \$8 billion (£5.1 billion).

Mr Talbott questioned whether Iran, for all its oil riches, could afford to pay.

Nothing in the agreement has any direct bearing on military applications of nuclear power, but Washington believes that Iran could acquire expertise that would enable its scientists to make progress with what Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, has called Tehran's crash programme to build nuclear weapons.

Arming Iran's Islamic fundamentalist mullahs with nuclear arms would be deeply destabilising for the Middle East, particularly if Iran learns how to reprocess spent plutonium fuel from its Russian reactors into weapons-grade material.

The Clinton Administration is urging the Yeltsin Government, so far without success, to impose a "fuel take-back" clause in its contract for returning the used fuel to Russia.



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£50,000 - £99,999	5.75%	5.90%	4.31%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.375%	5.51%	4.03%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	5.12%	3.75%
£2,000 - £9,999	4.00%	4.07%	3.00%
Premium Reserve Instant Access			
£50,000 and above	4.875%	4.96%	3.66%
£25,000 - £49,999	4.625%	4.71%	3.47%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.25%	4.32%	3.19%
£2,000 - £9,999	3.875%	3.93%	2.91%
First Reserve Instant Access			
£1,000 and above	3.75%	3.80%	2.81%
£500 - £999	3.50%	3.55%	2.63%
£250 - £499	2.375%	2.40%	1.78%
£100 - £249	2.25%	2.27%	1.69%
£20 - £99	2.125%	2.14%	1.59%
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Worldwide threat to mountains

Washington: A leading environmental group has issued an urgent appeal to protect the world's mountains, saying a range of human activities, from mining in the Andes to golf courses in the Alps, threaten them with destruction.

Worldwatch Institute said in a report which it will present to a UN-sponsored conference next week that until "the strategic importance and fragility of mountains" is recognised, "a large portion of the world's intact ecosystems will remain at risk". It claimed that mining, hydroelectric projects and warfare were causing widespread deforestation. (AFP)

Timor pledge

Jakarta: The Indonesian armed forces pledged to discipline any military personnel found to have violated correct procedure in the case of the deaths of six alleged East Timorese guerrillas killed last month. (AFP)

Tigers recruit

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have launched a big recruitment drive in the island's eastern province under the protection of a truce with the security forces, sources said. (AFP)

Star gazing

Bangkok: Trirak Rakkar, a popular actress, joined opponents of a Thai Government plan to limit the use of tinted car windows, saying entertainers often had to change in cars on location. (Reuters)

POP

If it's February it must be Eric Clapton: a Glasgow gig precedes the veteran's annual Albert Hall residency

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

NADINE MEISNER

toire. Today, the dancers still span a broad ethnic spectrum, but so do

Union Dance

Queen Elizabeth Hall

others elsewhere, while Union's programme at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, launching this year's Spring Loaded dance festival, could have belonged to any number of other companies.

True, the climax of the evening, Doug Elkins's *A Knot Annulled* (receiving its premiere) stands as a monument to cross-culturalism. But so does all of Elkins's choreography. In subscribing to it, Union is now like many other companies. If it wants to find its distinctiveness again, it needs to

A *Knot Annulled* is melting-pot dance, a paean to eclecticism that thrives on incongruity. Elkins mixes and matches abrupt sentiments of classical music, reggae and funk with choreography that liquidizes jazz dance, street dance and whatever into an exotic, improbable milkshake.

Elkins projects life-enhancing variety, but David Nurses' *Red, Blue and Ochre* suffocates us with monotony. It told us nothing about the choreographer (a company dancer), contrary to the remaining piece, *Soon*. Bill T. Jones' deeply personal statement about race and generation is missing.

Originally made as a duet, Jones reworked *Soon* for Elkins in 1992 as a piece for two couples. Perhaps because Union's dancers are not as fluently assured as Jones's own group, perhaps because the revised choreography is more diffuse, *Soon* seems less seamless, but it still delivers a punch.

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MUSIC

Sir Colin Davis guides the LSO through Tippett's magnificent Third Symphony at the Barbican

CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday



FILMS

What would Kipling have said? Disney presents its new modernised version of *The Jungle Book*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE

The fast-rising Royal Ballet soloist Sarah Wildor makes her debut as Giselle at Covent Garden

OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday



BOOKS

The importance of things being various: Jon Stallworthy brings out his biography of the poet Louis MacNeice

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: Marber plays his cards too close to his chest; Charnock's chapters — and worse

Chips with not quite enough

One of the pleasures of theatregoing is that you can pitch your tent for an evening in a world where you would never dream of taking up permanent residence. If the author is a David Mamet, and really knows his stuff, you may find yourself visiting real-estate offices, junk shops, lakeboats, Chicago bars, politically correct universities, palm-readers' parlours and grubby offices in downtown Hollywood.

But not even Mamet, although reportedly a wizard with the cards, has yet drawn us into a world where the code words range from Hedgehog to Omaha, Chicago to Oldham. It has been left to a Briton, Patrick Marber, to accept the vacant post of bard of the poker table.

On the evidence of *Dealer's Choice*, he is a sharp, witty writer with something still to learn about the craft of playmaking. On the same evidence, the world of amateur poker

Dealer's Choice
Cottesloe

is best avoided, since the losers at the table seem also to be losers in life and the winners don't gain anything worth winning. Myself, I tend to think that a royal flush is something that happens to queens and princesses when they go through the menopause; and, if that is ignorance, Marber's play encourages me to believe it is bliss.

Bunny Christie, who designs, has transformed a slice of Cottesloe first into the kitchen and dining-room, then into the basement, of a London restaurant. Half the play is spent edgily preparing for the game, the other half sitting with chips and cards around a slowly revolving table. The players are the owner, his son, the chef, two waiters and a sinister customer who has outstayed his welcome. To put it another way, they are an urbanly obsessed Nicholas Day, a feckless David Bark-Jones, a sullen Ray Winstone, a fly Phil Daniels, a babbling Nigel Lindsay, and Tom Georgeson as deathly as his name, which is Ash.

Marber writes immensely entertaining dialogue, but this is his first



Upping the ante: Nicholas Day, David Bark-Jones, Ray Winstone, Phil Daniels, Nigel Lindsay and Tom Georgeson in *Dealer's Choice*

play and he is not yet so adept when it comes to generating tension. The production, his own, does not leave you exactly agog to discover if Winstone's Sweeney will lose the money he plans to spend on taking his five-year-old to the zoo. It does not even engage you as fully as it should in the main plot, which involves an appallingly devious attempt by Bark-

Jones's gambolistic Carl to help Ash, a professional to whom he owes thousands, take his father and friends to the cleaners.

While I'm in a cavilling vein, let me point out a few holes in the dramatic fabric. How can a restaurant with such awful waiters flourish? Why has Ash given money and succour to Carl? What is the nature of the

friendship between Sweeney and Daniels's Frankie, who seem to live together? Marber does make some efforts to explore his characters and to acknowledge their need to manipulate, dominate, or destroy themselves; but too often he opts for what comes easiest to him. That's to say, he spends a disproportionate amount of time sending up Lindsay's Mugsy,

who is getting together the cash to transform a public loo on the Mile End Road into an eatery he proposes to call the Bow Thai. But the character's unselfconscious idiocies do provoke loads of laughter. So does Marber's quick, jabbing repartee.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Feeling more than a little cross

Hell Bent
Drill Hall, WCI

NIGEL CHARNOCK goes to bed with a crucifix. It is no small pendant round the neck. This is Nigel Charnock, after all, the daringly experimental dancer-actor who has had a cult following since his DVS days. And this is *Hell Bent*, his solo show which combines modern dance, tongue-in-cheek torchsongs and manic monologues in order to explore the perversions of passion.

It completes the trilogy that began with *Resurrection* (1991) and *Original Sin* (1993). So in *Hell Bent* there is a man-size rood on the single mattress. Nigel, here a drag artist coming home to an empty bed, obsessively burdened with the absence of a lover, makes love to a cross in his dreams.

This is, of course, shocking. That is a quality Charnock thoroughly enjoys. But, as he fervently kisses and winds his limbs around the hard wood — his skin startlingly pale — he also becomes a

potent vision of human love: of adoration and grief, of agony and ecstasy crossed; of the clinging intimacy of intercourse and of emotionally desperate loneliness.

Moreover, the iconoclasm is directed not at Christianity. Rather, *Hell Bent* worries the modern creed of romantic love: our collapse when the crutch of a relationship is pulled away; our belief in some messiah-like Mr Right.

Charnock courts danger, artistically and autobiographically. He hurls himself from heights, jumping off top-steps into darkness, or repeatedly slamming himself against the floor. His verbally whirling monologues teeter on the brink of confessional self-exposure and indulgent egocentricity. But his saving grace is

his self-parodying delirious silliness. There is a charming lightness about him, with his dandelion head of fly-away albino-white hair. He is a cartoon of a social saddy. Shoulders needly hunched and hands flailing, he writes away to himself like a bitchily camp wobble going round the bend.

The spoken scenes don't plumb the depths of pain conveyed in Charnock's dance. He makes a slick soft-porn showgirl routine bristle with anger. And there is a deeply disturbing moment when he asphyxiates himself with his head in a freezer bag, his face distorted like a gargoyle. Many episodes need pruning. A long orgasm-obsessed speech verges on the puerile. Yet Charnock's charisma and playfulness carry him through. And he sings, Shirley Bassey style, with terrific assurance. An immensely talented man.

KATE BASSETT



Nigel Charnock: manic monologues on perverse themes

POP: Glaswegians hit the heights

Climb every mountain

Del Amitri
Fort William,
Inverness-shire

their sales and a succession of accomplished single releases, their modest refusal to adopt rock attitudes and build a strong image leaves some people still believing that their name is a familiar form of some London nightclub crooner christened Derek Amitri.

Lead singer Justin Currie did his best to banish the what-are-we-doing-here blues by braving the crowd in tam-o'-shanter and kilt. This sartorial gambit was not matched

by much generosity of spirit from the ticket winners, who kept a polite distance from the band at stage front, and applauded just a little too politely to scare up any special atmosphere.

Neither was this the kind of full-on group performance to which fans will be treated on Del Amitri's healthily-subscribed March tour of some of Britain's less snow-capped venues. Instead, it was a less than natural showcase for most of the songs from *Twist-*

ed, and the evening would have had more snap if more than just two hit memories had been thrown on the fire. Nevertheless, the group's playing was spirited from the moment they opened with an acoustic version of the new record's lead track, *Food for Songs*. The new top-40 single *Here and Now* will soon be an anthem part of their repertoire, while fresh songs such as *Driving with the Brakes On* and the study in solitude, *Crashing Down*, bring new depth to their canon. But they could have celebrated their journey to this point in their career with more than merely *Just Like a Man* and *Always the Last to Know*.

One up for the strange-but-true club, but it made a change, instead of scrambling for the last Tube home, to be competing for the final cable car down the mountain.

PAUL SEXTON

TOMORROW, Westminster Abbey honours Oscar Wilde with a stained-glass panel in Poets' Corner, a century on from the premiere of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This is just one of many Wilde tributes currently being planned. Two separate feature films are in the works — one with Hugh Grant and Liam Neeson to be written by David Hare; the other co-starring Kenneth Branagh and Stephen Fry, and possibly with Branagh directing.

Hare approached Nicholas Hytner about directing his film. But Hytner is said to be interested in asking Alan Bennett to do the scriptwriting on another Wilde film-biography. In April, meanwhile, Peter Hall's 1992 production of *An Ideal Husband* goes to Broadway, and a new *Importance of Being Earnest*, directed by Terry Hands, is planned for May in Birmingham.

Also of interest will be producer Annie Paul's BBC2 film about Wilde, to be aired probably on April 3. Paul's film, which begins at the Café Royal, will end at Westminster Abbey with footage of tomorrow's event. Dame Judi

OVERTURES

Plenty of Wilde life

Deen and Dame Iris Murdoch are among those due to appear, alongside Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland.

● THE reclusive Annie Lennox, back in the news with the single *No More I Love You's*, is to release her own version of that fashionable commodity, an album of cover versions, next month. However, the tone of *Medusa* will be somewhat more highbrow than other recent efforts. Among the songs featured will be Joni Mitchell's *Ladies of the Canyon* and that polished chestnut, Procol Harum's *A Whiter Shade of Pale*.

● A MAJOR London revival of Woolf's *Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

may star Diana Rigg and Alan Bates, if West End producer Robert Fox's plans are successful. The play was last seen in London at the Young Vic with Billie Whitelaw and Patrick Stewart. If it happens, the revival would have to wait until spring 1996, when Dame Diana has finished her National Theatre chores in *Mother Courage*.

Meanwhile, Ruthie Henshall, the toothsome star of *She Loves Me*, and Jacqueline Dankworth, Cleo Laine's daughter, have been suggested as stars with Judi Dench and Ian McKellen in *A Little Night Music* this summer at the National. Also on the Sontheim front: it looks as if Jeremy Sams may direct *Passion* if it gets to the West End.

● WITH her single *Think Twice* and album *The Colour of My Love* topping both pop charts simultaneously, Canadian star Celine Dion has announced her first-ever British tour. In May she will appear at the Birmingham Symphony Hall (19), Nottingham Royal Concert Hall (20), Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (22), Manchester Apollo (23) and Hammersmith Apollo (25).

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China's preference for male babies poses a social threat □ Dinosaur traces may be human fingerprints □ Ancestors dallied at the gates of Europe



THE Football Association has resolved to find "the root cause" of the trouble that marred last week's match between Chelsea and Millwall, when fans invaded the pitch. I can tell them. In a word, it's testosterone.

Young men with the sap rising and no wars to fight are a notoriously incendiary bunch. To blame the male sex hormone is, of course, a cop-out, but when did you last hear of a netball crowd on the rampage? A large proportion of violent crime is committed by men between the age of puberty and the coming of wisdom, which is some cases are quite a few years apart.

This brings me to a paper in last week's issue of *Science*, and reported in Saturday's issue of *The Times*, which ought to be compulsory reading in Peking, and in the capitals of other countries where public policy and modern medical technology are creating a dangerous imbalance between the sexes.

By the year 2010, the authors of the article conclude, there will be

Danger of too many boys



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

an annual surplus of about one million Chinese men unable to find marriage partners. This, they warn, will pose "social and cultural challenges" in a country already undergoing rapid economic and political change.

A million surplus men a year with no women to marry strikes me as a recipe for some very tricky social problems indeed. Riots at football matches may be the least of them.

Normally, sex ratios at birth — the number of live male births for every 100 female births — is about 105. In China in 1990, it rose to

113.8 for firstborn children, and even higher for subsequent births. This imbalance implies many millions of "missing" females, say Doctors Shripad Tuljaparkar, Nan Li and Marcus Feldman, of the Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies, at Stanford University. Similar patterns have been observed in India, Bangladesh, and South Korea.

What has happened is that people's desire for sons in countries where they provide the best security in old age has combined with the ability to determine sex at an

early stage of pregnancy. Selective abortion has ensured that more boys than girls are born — and in China, many girls who are born alive are encouraged to die.

The policy of controlling population by discouraging people from having more than one child has intensified the pressures. The result, the authors say, is that in a country where virtually everybody marries, one in 12 of males will not be able to.

Could this be avoided if marriages were delayed, or if men chose to marry women from different age groups? The analysis shows that this would make little difference. Nor, without a cultural revolution, will we see the shortage being met by the immigration of wives from abroad. Chinese men — at least in China — do not tend to marry foreign wives.

In an attempt to discourage the desire for sons, the Chinese Government targets social security programmes specifically at those who have no sons. But the three demographers conclude that this has not had any significant effect. They warn that the sex ratio may get even further out of balance in the future.

DNA riddle



LAST year dinosaur-hunter Scott Woodward, of Brigham Young University, took a leaf out of *Jurassic Park* by extracting what appeared to be the DNA of a dinosaur from bones found in a Utah coal mine.

True, he didn't go as far as reconstructing the creature, but even getting the DNA from bones 80 million years old was an achievement. Now another expert on ancient DNA, Svante Pääbo, of Munich University, has claimed that Woodward's dinosaur DNA is really a little bit of human DNA. This was always a possibility, because the techniques used to multiply the tiny fragments found in old bones run the risk of multiplying instead traces of human contamination accidentally transferred to the bones.

The gene Woodward found was that responsible for producing the enzyme cytochrome B, which is involved in the production of energy in the cell and is normally

found in the cell's powerhouses, the mitochondria. Human beings also have this gene in the DNA in the nucleus of their cells, and *New Scientist* reports that Dr Pääbo has concluded that the human gene is identical to Dr Woodward's dinosaur DNA.

Dr Woodward apparently does not agree that contamination has taken place. He is sticking to his guns, and says that he has compared his "dinosaur DNA" with the cytochrome B sequences of various mammals, and the one it is closest to is the whale. He now plans to try to extract other DNA sequences from the bones to prove his case.

Cold facts



THE discovery of an ancient hominid jaw in Georgia, in the Caucasus, has deepened the mystery of why man's ancestors took so long to populate Europe. The jaw, from the species *Homo erectus*, is 1.8 million years old, making it as

old as any remains ever found outside Africa. Yet *Homo erectus* took at least another million years to spread across Europe. The earliest evidence in Britain is Boxgrove Man, who lived half a million years ago.

The jaw was found by Dr Leo Gabunia and colleagues at the Georgian Academy of Sciences in Tbilisi. It was found in eastern Georgia, where excavations into grain storage pits created 1,000 years ago revealed much more ancient remains in the sides of the pits. One of these was the jaw, which, they report in *Nature*, belonged to *Homo erectus* and has been dated by three independent methods to 1.8 million years old.

But if early man was at the gates of Europe as early as this, what kept him? One problem may have been the climate, which was simply too frozen for the primitive people to survive long. Another may have been wild animals which made Europe too dangerous a place to live, and would have attacked any relatively slow-moving creature. Europe may be the home of civilisation, but it evidently wasn't civilised enough then for *Homo erectus*.

The building blocks of life in outer space

Many of the elements found on Earth exist in a rich interstellar chemistry, says Hugh Aldersey-Williams

THIS month marks the centenary of the discovery of helium, the second lightest of all the elements, and the first of the inert gases. The discovery has its origins in 1868. Behind the apparent anomaly of marking the centenary 27 years late lies a lasting fusion of chemistry and astronomy.

During the course of the 19th century, scientists had learnt that light sources from flames to stars are comprised of lines of colour representing the light emitted by particular

chemical species present in the burning source. Dark lines appear at the same wavelengths when the same chemical species absorb light. These sequences of lines are unique to each element and compound and thus provide a "fingerprint" in their analysis. A solar eclipse in 1868 provided an opportunity to record superior solar spectra. Analysing them, the astronomer Norman Lockyer and others noticed a new line in the otherwise familiar pattern. Lockyer concluded that it

could only be explained by a new chemical element. His colleague, Edward Frankland, proposed the name helium, from the Greek for the sun, *helios*.

This was no ordinary discovery. If it really was a new element, then it was the only one to have been detected at remote distances by the new technique of spectroscopy. But without any "helium" available on Earth, it remained impossible to confirm that this was, indeed, what the anomalous spectral signal represented.

Confirmation had to wait nearly 30 years. In 1894, William Ramsay had discovered the inert gas element, argon. Although present as 1 per cent of air, it had remained undetected right under everyone's noses because of its inertness. Ramsay found argon by accident as a gaseous residue left over during the course of experiments to take up the air's nitrogen.

In February 1895, Ramsay received samples of a mineral that had been discovered to give off an inert gas. Thinking that it might be the new gas, argon, he and his colleague William Crookes performed a spectral analysis. They found that it was not argon but a new gas whose spectrum was in exact correspondence with Lockyer's solar spectral lines. The quickfire discovery of two new inert gases encouraged speculation that there would be other gas elements in this same group of the Periodic Table. Ramsay went on to discover neon, krypton and xenon. For his part in the discovery of five chemical elements, he was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1904.

Although helium is the only naturally-occurring element to have been discovered at a distance, the spectroscopic techniques by which it was discovered have led to a lasting union of chemistry and astronomy. Almost everything we know of the universe beyond the Earth and Moon comes from the study of radiation. This knowledge came first by direct observation, by the naked eye and then by telescope. More recently, it has come by means of sophisticated instruments able to receive and separate radiation across a wide span of the electromagnetic spectrum, revealing the "bar code" of spectral lines that betray the presence of particular atoms and molecules.

The latest generation of space instruments, such as the

Hubble space telescope and the Cosmic Background Explorer satellite, are nothing more than glorified spectroscopes. These instruments record spectra respectively in the ultraviolet and infrared regions of the spectrum. Radio telescopes perform the same function at microwave frequencies.

From the first, the notion that chemical analysis could be performed on a remote object such as a star roused the public imagination. So novel was this idea, indeed, that the first priority was to establish that the family of chemical elements present in space was the same as that known on Earth.

Increasingly powerful instruments have unearthed new spectral features which have often been hard to explain. New spectral lines are still appearing faster than we can explain them. "Much as we have learnt about the chemistry of the interstellar medium, there is obviously something that is still quite elusive," says Dr Louis Allamandola, of the NASA Ames Research Center, near San Francisco.

That elusive something will not be a new element — there are no gaps remaining in the Periodic Table. With the realisation that many of the chemical elements are comparatively widespread in certain



Astronomer: Lockyer, the discoverer of helium. Chemist: Ramsay, discoverer of argon



regions of space, such as in the atmosphere around stars, scientists have come to believe that there is a rich chemistry in which atoms and ions collide and form molecules.

The Second World War saw the spectroscopic detection of the first simple molecules composed of two atoms. "There was tremendous excitement when the first molecules were discovered, because we were all told that the interstellar medium was too harsh for them to form," says Allamandola. Excitement

turned to astonishment when the fragile ammonia molecule was detected in 1968. It was closely followed by water, then by carbon monoxide and formaldehyde.

Today, the catalogue of molecules reported to be present in space runs to a hundred or more, and includes such familiar specimens as ethyl-alcohol and acetone. The discovery of molecular ions, such as protonated carbon monoxide and hydrogen gas molecules, in cool regions of space, showed that complex reactions could

take place between ions and molecules enabling the creation of surprisingly large molecules.

In the 1970s, Harold Kroto and David Walton, chemists at the University of Sussex, teamed-up with Canadian astronomers in a series of experiments that greatly extended the catalogue of molecular possibilities in interstellar space. A molecule called cyanocetylene — a chain of three carbon atoms terminated with a nitrogen atom at one end and a hydrogen atom at

the other — had by then been detected in space.

Kroto and Walton had made the next chain in the sequence, which had two more carbon atoms, and recorded its spectrum. Using the Canadians' radio telescope, they used this information to search for it in the atmosphere around carbon stars. When they duly found this molecule with two more heavy atoms than any other yet detected, it was a sign that interstellar chemistry was even richer than had been thought. By making further chains in the sequence and recording their spectra, it was possible to use the radio telescope to search for these in space as well. Ultimately, they found molecules with nine and 11 atoms.

One small molecule whose detection in space has not yet been confirmed is the smallest amino acid, glycine. The maverick astronomer Fred Hoyle has argued that the existence in space of molecules — such as ammonia, water and formaldehyde — that play a role in terrestrial biology, suggest that life may have spread to Earth from outside the solar system. Most scientists dismiss this. "Glycine will be there," says Kroto. "But it's of no significance. Hoyle's argument is nonsense. This is not produced by a biological process. It's simply the creation of a random small molecule."

gan? what IS

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Ayatollahs of the airwaves

Radio stations that heap abuse on the audience are coming to Britain — but will anyone listen? Tom Rhodes reports

George, the self-styled atheist from Queens, has a simple question for Bob Grant: "Is vengeance the Lord's or does it belong to society, Bob? Do you agree with the death penalty?" Grant peers down at the large microphone for less than a second and answers: "The death penalty is a fitting sentence for murderers. Thank you George and now to our next caller."

On the line is Elvis, from Manhattan, who has been incensed by the suggestion that black people are in some way responsible for all crimes committed in the United States. The heated discussion which follows is brought to an abrupt end by Grant with the words: "Stop being so defensive will you... Get off my line you little creep."

Welcome to talk radio and the Bob Grant Show on WABC, New York's premier afternoon act, which attracts more than one million listeners every day. For those who seek attacks on blacks, gays, politicians and even the elderly, this is one of the most bigoted displays available on the American airwaves. This week Britain will have its first taste of the same.

Talk Radio UK — or TRUK, as it is known — will be broadcast for the first time tomorrow, Valentine's Day, and is designed as a hard-nosed, controversial, irreverent replica of the American model. It will use the "language of the day" to provoke radical reaction from its audience.

Somewhat it is hard to envisage that the English version can ever be a match for its American counterpart. Talk Radio was established in America decades ago but it has become a dominant cultural force only in the past six to eight years, using a general disaffection with government — in particular, the liberal politics of the Left — to create a whole new gallery of radio stars.

Grant and Rush Limbaugh have made WABC the most listened to radio station in the nation. Of the remaining list of hundreds, Howard Stern, Gordon Liddy and David Brodnick are the most renowned.

The "shock jocks", or ayatollahs of the airwaves, as they are charmingly known, have become so important to the political process under the Republicans in Congress that Newt Gingrich, the new Speaker of the House, told his staff to create space for talk-show hosts

who wanted to broadcast on the opening day of the new session last month.

In New York, Grant attracts the rawest audience with his relentless attacks on those both in and out of office. David Dinkins, the former Mayor of New York, is known as "the men's room attendant", and the President is "Slick Willy, that sleazebag in the White House".

Grant reserves his greatest distaste, however, for the politically correct. These include those who have banned a Bugs Bunny video showing the cartoon character attacking Japanese, and half the student body at Rutgers University in New Jersey. The students had called for the resignation of their president for comments he made suggesting that black exam results were in some way related to eugenics.

"What is science, after all, when we've got the politically correct stormtroopers out there," says Grant. "Let's check when we can say it, how we can say it and why we can say it, shall we?"

Grant, 45, a diminutive figure dressed in corduroys and knitted sweaters, bears an uncanny resemblance to Jimmy Young. The words even trip from his lips in the dulcet manner of the Radio 2 presenter. But that is where the similarity ends.

"Bob, I want to hear one programme where you do not mention the word black," says James, of New Jersey. "What do you mean by that sanctimonious garbage," counters Grant, who again drops the caller. "I despise putrid guys like James of Jersey City. They think I create this stuff in the first place!"

Grant's show brings in a tidy \$7 million (£4.6 million) in advertising revenue every year and, if he reads the commercials in person, the rates are astronomical.

Talk Radio UK will have to achieve similar commercial success in a market already burgeoning with seven established networks, countless local radio stations and a plethora of pirate broadcasters.

Stringent libel laws will make it hard for the British presenters, who include Steve Wright and Terry Christian, to emulate those across the Atlantic. In America, talk radio has no obligation to observe fact.

Behind the glass separating Grant from his producers, the sound engineer has his own theory. "I can't really see this stuff going down well in Britain," he shrugs. "You guys are just more racist than we are."



Shock jock: Bob Grant

GINNY DOUGARY faces the weight of evidence on her scales, and takes on a personal trainer



Ginny Dougary and her trainer Simon work-out in the park — her slimming regime will start with six weeks of fat-burning, and then a long-distance slog to size 10

Exit, Mistress Blobby

It is judgment day. I haven't stepped on the scales for a good year, and they have hit back with a vengeance. I've moved them around the bathroom floor, curled my toes up, taken a deep breath, shifted my weight from foot to foot, but there is no avoiding the gruesome truth that I appear to have turned into Michelin Woman.

Not that I was sybil-like before. My unhealthy relationship with food dates back — doesn't it always? — to adolescence. At school, my gang of friends would descend onto the local confectioners to stock up supplies: whipped cream, bon-bons, crumbly fudge, misshapen slabs of cheap chocolate and bars of Caramac, which we would gorge on in a sinful weekly ritual back in the dormitory.

Then we discovered boys. And crash diets. The coolest girl in the sixth form, the one all us juniors emulated, wore her pink crushed-velvet jeans a size too small simply to remind herself not to eat. One term, I managed to get through the best part of a week existing only on oranges. And I still didn't manage

to squirm into the requisite size 10 pair of leers.

At university, I had a thinnish year followed by a fattish one when I thought it was smart to down pints of lager with the lads. During my twenties, the pendulum swung between plump and too plump until I moved to Sydney and discovered bushwalks, bodysurfing, skinny-dips at midnight, workouts at midday and, for the first time in my life, what I felt like to be confident in a swimsuit. Hallelujah.

I am of average height (5ft 7in) but, seven years on, of sadly over-average weight (12st-something). I blame it on England and having babies. In time-honoured dieters' fashion, of course, one never blames oneself. After the birth of each of my sons, I solemnly attended Weight Watchers' meetings and visited the gym once or twice a week. I never sprang back into my pre-pregnancy Aussie body, but this regime (particularly the exercise) did appear to keep my vital stats at least vaguely under control.

The rot set in with my third "pregnancy", just over a year ago. When I took three months off work to complete a book. Like a Muriel Spark heroine who stuffs her stomach to feed her brain, I consumed tubs of Häagen-Dazs.

Simon has arrived, and I must say farewell to hot buttered toast

bars of chocolate, hot buttered toast and jam — anything to help me get through the long haul and deliver the wretched manuscript. And then, with no post-delivery famine, it was back to the day job as a journalist. My poor old physique has still not recovered from that feasting. Worse still, I have got out of the habit of taking exercise.

I'm sorry, Dawn French, but I am fed up with being Mistress Blobby. I don't want to be plumpish anymore. Since I am better at doing things to my body than depriving it, it seems sensible to concentrate on getting fit rather than trying yet another whacky diet. My wonderful GP, the aptly-named Dr Peach, agrees. He also thinks, rather less wonderfully, that I should lose at least a couple of stone.

Thus, for the next three to four months (I cannot quite believe that I am writing this), there will be a new man in my life. His name is Simon Howland and he is a personal trainer. Simon has done wonders for my friend Dragana's thighs, and he intends to do wonders for mine. Oh yes, I have filled out my medical profile, memorised Simon's copy of Oprah Winfrey's personal chef's recipe book for my new low-fat way of eating (we don't call it a diet, and bought my weird-looking Nike running shoes for our early-morning jogs around the common. (Yuk.) Each session will last an hour or so, three times a week. I

will be expected to do a fourth session on my own. The first four to six weeks, Simon tells me mellifluously, will be all about "fat burning" — during which the worst of the weight should drop off. Then we'll settle in for the long-distance slog of whittling away the rest, while working on getting me to go in and out in the right places.

A personal trainer! In my own home! Will I turn into Jane Fonda or Tina Turner, or, at the very least, a putchritudinous version of myself? How long will it take to develop those nice dippy bits along the sides of my thighs otherwise known as muscles? How long before I can fit back into my jeans? And the gorgeous Fifties cocktail dress which has been languishing in my "thin" wardrobe for so many years? How long will it take before Simon decks me with his weights? (He has already informed me, in the nicest possible way, that my own dinky blue pair are, frankly, path-etic.) More to the point, how long will it take before I deck him? Watch this space.

THE BBC's two-year exercise in self-criticism has, if week-end leaks be correct, concluded that Britain finds it "conservative and highbrow and too much part of the Establishment". Also that it is alienating youth, black people and Asians, is unforgivably "middle-aged in tone and subject matter", and biased towards London.

None of which is a surprise. It is what the BBC wanted to be told. There are plenty of statements dating from before the review which show that the BBC would have been terribly disappointed if the populace had begged it to stay as sweet as it is. One is irresistibly reminded of those boyfriends of one's Adrian Mole years, the kind who keep saying: "Go on, tell me what's wrong with me — it's my spots, isn't it? And my hair — and my personality — go on, admit it!"

I am sure this was not the exact wording of the Birt-Forgan-Yentob questionnaire; but I have a sneaking suspicion that if anyone had said: "The BBC? Terrific, especially Radio 4! The great thing about middle-class voices is that you can understand what they're saying — and we in Huddersfield love to know what's going on in London, it's our capital city," they would have got a what our old babysitter used to call a Killing Look, and found a number

Is Auntie going loopy?

The BBC was dying to be told it was middle-class and London-centred



LIBBY PURVES

of Armani-suited backs turned on them with a petulant swish. For two years now, the easiest way to gain favour in the BBC has been to confess to past sins of bourgeois elitism. In particular, the worry about regional correctness has led to loopy diversions like the practice of flying a gang of excitable London intellectuals up to Manchester to record the television version of the *Moral Maze*, and then flying them back again; all because the religious department has been moved to Manchester to make it, er, less Londonish. Mind you, it has also led to breakthroughs like the real widening of regional coverage by Radio 5 Live, so "regionality" is not all nonsense.

But there is something uneasy, at times, about the prevailing sense that it is in some way wicked to live in London or Kent, and that a vox-pop from Bradford is inevitably wiser than one from Ealing.

Unless, of course, the individual from Ealing is teenage, black, Asian, gay, or out of work (manual work, please). There is nothing wrong with broadening BBC sympathies, and certainly no call for complacency; but there is a sense, discernible on radio and TV,

of terrible triumph as the corporation captures each minority beast for exhibition. It can make broadcasting feel like an earnest zoo, when it ought to feel like a good party.

It also leads to entertaining incidents where, for the sake of regional correctness, a producer moves a programme far from London only to discover that the farther you get, the more likely you are to encounter in your studio a group of cheerily unrepentant sexist, little-Englanders, and people with nobbut honest contempt for yoo! reggae music, single parents and southern lesbians.

There will, they say, be new strategies to attract "ethnic minorities, young people, and those outside the Home Counties". Now I love the BBC very much, and have felt part of it for two decades: it is with affection that I beg it to tread with care. Too much of modern life is already designed by those who "target" customers, studying them at a superficial level and giving them what the

computer printout says they want. It is a denial of individual taste, of quirkiness, of the wonderful way that ideas and facts can leap from mind to mind and be exchanged between kings and beggars, old and young, the simple and the brilliant.

Targeting equals patronising: it impoverishes discourse. "Ethnic, are you, laddie? Fine, here's some rap music and a play about some other people with your sort of ancestor. Eighteen, are you? We know your sort — attention span of 30 seconds, ha ha — so here's some zappy stuff for you. Never mind that you've just taken your A levels and you're off to university, the first in your family, part of the biggest explosion in higher education the country has ever seen — you're still a yoo! You want something with green hair and no grammar, eh?"

"Now, regionality — you people in Penzance and Belfast and Spalding certainly don't want to hear about London, so here's a long item from Clitheroe, you'll like that! It's regional, see, like you. What was that? London is the capital, you're proud of it, you want to know what's going on there? Wash your mouth out!"

Programme makers are crit-

icised for making shows without knowing what the audience wants. Sounds bad, but look at it another way. The greatest programmes have sprung up because a group of creative people longed to make them: enthused, and laughed, and schemed and believed.

Despite its many absurdities the old, collegiate BBC threw up wonderful things, from *Steptoe to Panorama*. It opened the eyes of millions to worlds they never expected to see: worlds which were not part of their lives and which they would never have mentioned to market researchers because they didn't know about them.

LIKE real education, real broadcasting stretches out a hand to everyone, offering the best. David Attenborough, who as Controller gave us both *Civilisation* and *TV Snooker*, has opened many windows and still does. Yet as he observed to me at the launching of his current series, there will be no more Attenboroughs. "If some young chap came along saying 'tell me what, give me 50 minutes prime-time to make a show about leaves', they'd tell him to take a rest."

Targeting and marketing are no match for faith and creativity; people are not to be pigeonholed. But I am sure the BBC knows that, because I still trust it. Just.

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Matthew Parris



■ Since no one can say what the 'right' salary is for an executive, who can say what is 'wrong'?

Did Mrs Thatcher understand Thatcherism? The Chauncey Gardiner of her own political salon, her combination of banality and self-belief encouraged those around her to construct her random utterances into a doctrine, which she persuaded herself she had thought of herself. But it was her native common sense that carried her. Thatcherism as a philosophy is a hopeless tangle.

Nothing better illustrates this than the current row over top directors' salaries. BT's Sir Iain Vallance, in his evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Employment, barged straight into the bramble-patch when he tried to defend his pay on grounds of distributive justice. His critics, MPs, spoke of injustice.

How little those who operate the market and those who oversee it politically understand the moral basis of capitalism! Disagreement over whether a particular wage is "just", presumes agreement on a far more important question: that in a market economy a wage is capable of being unjust.

Is it? Do such terms have any meaning in market economies? Or have they any meaning in any system of morality which can be operated alongside the market, as Christians, Jews and Muslims all hope their faith can? These religions propose a rather similar scale against which we must test prices and incomes for "justice": the test of "need" or "deserving". All three (in common with Marxism) seem to think there is some way this can be determined.

But even if it could, these religions can never be bent to the service of market economics, because the market regularly produces outcomes which offend any conceivable judgment of need or deserving. Central to the operation of a market — in either goods or labour — is the idea of profiting from scarcity. This is the very engine of a market system, for if scarcity is prevented from lifting price or profit — not "reasonably" but proportionate to the scarcity — then the system fails.

Profiting from scarcity can never be reconciled with Christianity, and that — says Mrs Thatcher's speech at St Lawrence Jewry 17 years ago, or Michael Portillo's recent address in Liverpool Cathedral — is that: Just read the Gospels. Even without bringing God into it, Simon Jenkins, on this page, demolished claims that the salaries in the news reflected any likely measure of need or deserving.

But Jenkins went on, as others have, to challenge the market justification for such salaries. Commentators argue that determinations of executive pay have some-

how been "wrong" in market terms, or have resulted from quirks in the system which are themselves anti-market. They have argued either that people like Vallance could be hired more cheaply; or that his performance is unlikely to respond to changes in an already huge salary; or that the cost of the bad publicity exceeds any benefits purchased by the salary increase.

In this they may be right. Where they are wrong, however, is in their undeclared major premise: that the failure of the market to produce the optimum outcome in any individual instance calls for legislation, or interference from outside the market, or indeed public comment at all.

Market economics does not claim to cause the price of goods or labour to move in a way which always or even usually maximises efficiency, prosperity or the public good. It only claims to be better than any other system at doing so. Other systems include systematised intervention by politicians, and hazardous interference by media comment.

If we do spot rigidities or monopolies operating within the market, then our task as free-marketters is to press for their removal, not for ad hoc remedies aimed at individual instances.

If unhappiness about Mr Vallance's salary were really rooted in our dismay at his company's part-monopoly, then there would be more media interest in how that might be removed. But it is really rooted in dismay that anyone can profit so much from providing something people need. The argument about BT's special status simply provides us with an unusual opportunity to sink our teeth into a corporate buttock: Vallance's. Yet beyond his lie buttocks without number, some far fatter (do banks, supermarkets, insurance companies, not provide a public service?), but we seize on BT because it has not quite yet escaped into the free market. When it does, do we really think its directors will be paid less?

It is not necessary to believe that Mr Vallance "deserves" his salary, or needs it, or would quit without it, or is working harder because of it, or even that the board of BT is well-placed to decide it, in order to believe that we — MPs or journalists — are not well-placed to decide it either.

The system we have, a capitalist economy, offends mightily against religious principles, fails lamentably to produce optimum results even in terms of its own principles, and remains the best engine for our prosperity that man can devise. Envy is envy, and we should just admit it.

Today's students are asked to 'empathise' with characters, but their judgments can be very harsh

Is it time to revise my literary views?

intelligent schoolgirl could reasonably find *Under Milk Wood* an irritating object of study, particularly at the revision stage.

It is her objection to *Othello* which is more disconcerting. Her difficulty is that she finds it impossible to sympathise deeply with any of the characters, with the possible exception of Emilia: even Emilia she considers to have been pretty thick not to have seen what her husband, Iago, was really like. Desdemona she regards as a vapid, wet young woman who is invented solely for the purpose of being murdered; Iago is obviously extremely unpleasant; Cassio is another lay figure, and one who has extremely bad luck: the Moor himself she sees as a very stupid man, if mildly interesting as an example of trans-ethnic jealousy, a sort of O.J. Othello. But with none of these characters can she establish any personal sympathy, and she does not therefore greatly mind what happens to them: she does not cry when Desdemona is killed, any more than she would if a dummy in a fashion shop had her head removed in order to be fitted with a new costume.

I'm so accustomed to the idea that *Othello* is one of the greatest of tragedies, that I was quite startled by this critique. Two questions seemed to arise from it. The first is whether one does ever really sympathise with Shakespeare's character; the second is whether such sympathy is a

necessary part of the appreciation of literature.

The answer to the first question is disturbing. The major characters in the tragedies are not very sympathetic, though some of the minor characters are. Just as Emilia is the most sympathetic character in *Othello*, so is Horatio in *Hamlet*, the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* and perhaps Banquo in *Macbeth*. *Hamlet* himself is a very real person, but not a likeable one, the personification of the irritating traits of indecision, self-

sar, Mark Antony, Brutus or Coriolanus as close personal friends.

It is in the comedies, if anywhere, that one finds sympathetic Shakespearean characters, though there are not all that many of them even there. One can just about sympathise with Falstaff, but he has to be on his deathbed for the sympathy to have any real warmth to it. To my taste, *Much Ado About Nothing* is the most sympathetic of Shakespeare's plays: if sympathy is the test then Beatrice and Benedick are the most touching of Shakespeare's couples. Like Annunziata on *Othello*, I have never cared much personally for *Romeo* or *Juliet*. *Romeo* was a dangerous young hoodlum and *Juliet* a star-struck girl. Yet it is a most moving drama.

No doubt GCSE is calculated to bring out whatever is most negative about the authors who are studied. Perhaps some other authors did fall in love with their characters in a way that Shakespeare did not: in Shakespeare there is so great an understanding that it almost inhibits personal sentiment. Henry Fielding loved Tom Jones. Correspondingly, we sympathise with Tom Jones, as we do with Anthony Trollope's Septimus Harding. I do not feel much sympathy for any of Dickens's characters which is why I seldom read him.

The idea that this sort of sympathy is essential to the appreciation of literature may itself be a modern

one. Empathy is a common word in modern teaching theory — Annunziata herself was recently set an essay on the Night of the Long Knives, to be written from Adolf Hitler's point of view. "Wow am I glad that's all over and Roehm is dead! We gave him the good old bullet in the head. Kat-a-tat-tat. My buddy Herman Goering did a grand job. You know he had suffered plenty of guys before; he did it in real style." I was not sure that it was wise to invite 15-year-old girls to enter into the mind of the most evil tyrant of the 20th century, but it does not seem to have done her any harm. In my day no one ever asked me to imagine what it would have been like to be the Emperor Caligula or even Robespierre. "Gee, I get a kick out of sending aristos to the guillotine."

The concept of sympathy as the criterion of literature must come from the broad shift from the objective to the subjective which is part of the culture of the 20th century. My father was at Charterhouse 40 years before me. The English Literature paper he may have taken in 1906, when he was 16, is in front of me. "Question One: Give the context and author of 14 of the following extracts. Question Two: Write out one of the poems whose opening lines are given below. Question Three: Point out and illustrate from other poems of the same authors the literary characteristics and moods of thought contained in the following passages. Question Four: Give some Kubla Khan, Ruth, Ode to the West Wind, Yarrow Revisited, To a Skylark, Elegy on Thirza, The Maid of Neidpath, Lucy Gray. Question Five: Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the best and happiest minds. Discuss this statement.

Eng. Lit is not like that nowadays. Anyway, who was the Maid of Neidpath?

William Rees-Mogg

absorption and intellectual conceit. We have all met far too many Hamlets in our lives. One's heart does not warm to the major characters in the history plays either. Most of the kings were disagreeable: John was a murderous scoundrel, Richard II a sort of Hamlet in the making, and even more self-pitying; Henry V a young military hero of a relatively superficial kind; Richard III was unspeakable. They are very interesting as character studies but they are not at all sympathetic as people. Nor would one choose Shakespeare's Julius Cae-

Courting the business vote

The financial world is losing faith in the Tories, writes Peter Riddell, although chairmen too are divided over Europe

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The Conservatives are rapidly ceasing to be the natural party of big business and the City. The latest convulsions in the Cabinet over a single European currency have dramatised this shift. This does not mean that capital is about to embrace Labour, with either a small or a capital "L". But many senior industrialists and bankers have lost so much faith in the Government's ability to chart and follow a consistent European strategy that they regard Tony Blair as someone with whom they can do business. Pearson may not be the only big company to make a donation to Labour.

Monetary union has become the symbol of this disenchantment with the Tories. The paradox is that the two main parties have similar policies: the Maastricht treaty guidelines for convergence of inflation, Budget deficits and interest rates, plus convergence in the real economy and labour markets. Kenneth Clarke's language last Thursday may have been a way from that of Jonathan Aitken or Michael Portillo, but it was virtually identical to that of Mr Blair. Both believe the decision should be left open for the moment, and should be judged on economic grounds. Neither believes that there are insuperable constitutional objections.

The Cabinet is now deeply split over anything beyond a largely empty pledge not to enter a single currency in 1996-97, when Germany and France may not anyway be ready to launch a monetary union. It is hard to see any Tory Prime Minister being able to persuade his party to back British participation. Even though a decision will probably not have to be taken for at least four or five years, that uncertainty per se ensures that the argument will not go away.

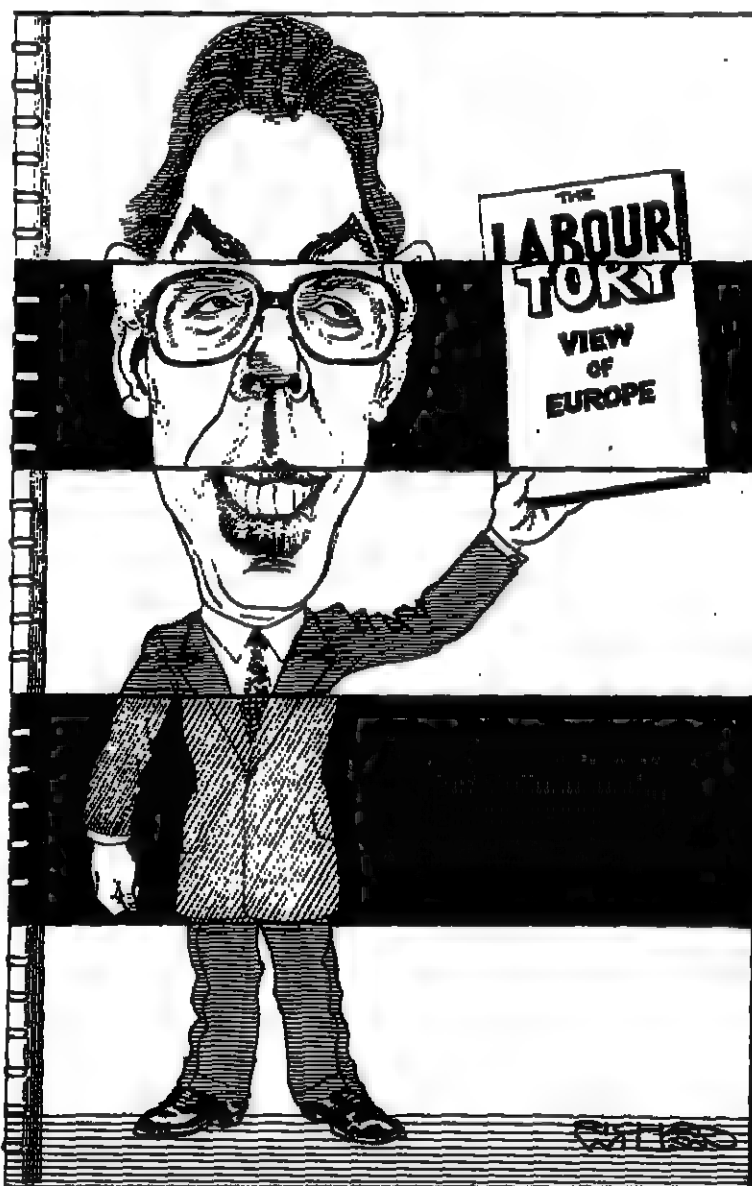
Such conflicts of economic and political interest have recurred through-

out the Tory party's history. Peel was rejected in the mid-1840s by the landed squires when he sought to repeal the Corn Laws after a free-trade campaign backed by manufacturing industry. The Balfour Government was fatally weakened in 1903 by a battle between tariff reformers and free-traders. The former took control of the party. The influx of businessmen after the First World War prompted Baldwin's famous remark about "hard-faced men who had done well out of the war".

It was still common then for leading businessmen to sit as MPs. In the inter-war era, nearly a fifth of the chairmen of leading companies had been members of the Commons at some stage of their careers. By the 1960s and 1970s, the figure was only 4 per cent, and now it is negligible. Usually the only chairmen of big companies with experience of the Commons are retired former ministers.

This reflects the increased specialisation of both business and politics. Those who want to reach the top in any big company, or large professional firm, have to give up the idea of running for the Commons. The days when a big City bank or broker indulged one or two people to develop their parliamentary ambitions are largely gone. On the other side, politics has become more demanding. A lengthy apprenticeship of local involvement is often required before being picked for a safe seat, and this is incompatible with a successful career in a large company.

The Industry and Parliament Trust estimates that the number of newly elected MPs of all parties with business experience has declined to just over a fifth in recent elections, compared with a third in 1979. Moreover, there has been a decline in



the number of Tory MPs who have worked for large international groups. The typical Tory MP with business links now works for the family firm or has built up his own company. By contrast with the growing influence of entrepreneurial small businessmen, the voice of the City is less heard. Apart from the now veteran Sir Peter Tapsell, an independent-minded stockbroker, Tories with a City background tend to be

people with little influence, such as Quentin Davies. This weakening of links between the Conservative Party and big business has been reflected on the financial side. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky has documented, donations by publicly quoted companies have been flat, and have fallen in real terms. This has made the party more dependent on contributions from wealthy individuals and those who have built up their own

private companies, like the Bourne-mouth builder who has just left the Tories £1 million in his will.

Consequently, the business views expressed in the Commons and by those with access to senior Conservatives are increasingly those of small business and self-made entrepreneurs, rather than those of multinational companies. The former are likely to be resentful of over-regulation by Brussels and not to have pan-European interests themselves. The shift by the Tory parliamentary party to a Euro-sceptic direction reflects the change in its composition. Thatcher's children have tilted the party's views on Europe in her direction, although too late for her personally.

Industry and the City, are, of course, divided about Britain's relations with Europe, and about a single currency, as Lord Hanson and the other 16 prominent business signatories of a letter to *The Times* last Thursday pointed out. Most are entrepreneurs rather than managers, and in some cases their companies do not have big interests in the rest of Europe.

By contrast, the chairmen of many multinational companies, such as BAT Industries, Unilever and BT, and their counterparts in the big City institutions, are more associated with the pro-European side. ACE, the new pro-European group, has a list of distinguished bank chairmen, former ambassadors and even former Governors of the Bank of England among its backers. However, some City people more directly involved in financial trading, such as Daniel Hodson of LIFFE, the futures market, who signed last Thursday's letter, are more dubious about a single currency.

Many in the City and big business establishment, including some at the top of the CBI, are impatient with the Government's divisions over Europe. They naturally have differences with Labour over the social chapter — though some multinationals are even relaxed about this — and there are doubts about Labour's tax plans. But business supporters of a single currency are increasingly looking to a Blair Government rather than to the Conservatives.

Charm offensive

THE HISTORIAN who led the revisionist attacks on Winston Churchill has come back for another stab. In a new book, John Charmley, from the University of East Anglia, blames the decline in Britain's status as a world power on Churchill's wartime leadership.

Charmley has never been generous in his praise of Churchill. His last book, *Churchill: The End of Glory*, an onslaught which suggested that Churchill should have negotiated an earlier end to the war, was greeted by a public outcry two years ago. The latest work, *Churchill's Grand Alliance*, is likely to elicit a similar response — not least because its launch date virtually coincides with the 50th anniversary of VE-Day.

Charmley says Churchill was myopic and backward-looking, a man who forged a disastrous relationship with America: "He was a crusty old Tory imperialist, yet he sold out Britain's imperial interests by forging the special relationship with America, because by 1945 America was determined to get rid of the British Empire."

Churchill, he says, had a fantasy about the Anglo-American union,

rooted in family history: his mother was American and his father English. Charmley calls the so-called "special relationship" a benign legend. "It has been used to make the British feel better about the way in which successive governments have subordinated British interests to American desires." But the author looks forward to the rumour on publication. "It will be the astringent after all the sugary stuff that we will get around then."

HE'S ASKED FOR IT NOW... SEND KATE ADIE



Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, has a secret for fighting High Court battles. He guzzles a tube of Smarties and two bottles of Evian water before setting about his opponents.

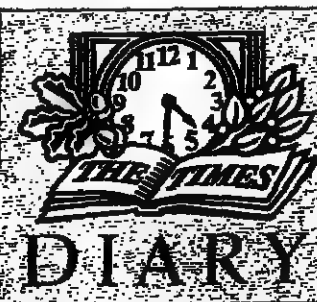
New and old

THE QUEEN is to open a new Cambridge college building for the first time. She will throw open the doors of the New Building at Emmanuel College, designed by Sir Michael and Lady Hopkins, in April.

The Royal Family has followed the construction closely. The Princess of Wales laid the foundation stone, and her husband is a big fan of the designers. "Stones for this building come from the quarry that was used for the college's Wren chapel," says the Master, Lord St John of Fawsley. "The building will do for the 1990s what Wren did for the 1660s."

Heckles rise

INTERVIEWEES seem to have been encouraged by John Birt's recent speech in which he suggested that some BBC interviewers are too ferocious. Jack Straw fought back by taunting John Humphrys



when the latter tried to interject during a discussion of regional assemblies on yesterday's *On the Record*.

"Let me finish," snapped Straw. "Otherwise I shall have to write to Mr Birt." Humphrys laughed, but protested: "A low blow, if I may so."

"A very low blow, but I was only three words into the answer before you..."

Humphrys cut in quickly: "I was trying to get you to clarify."

Straw was allowed to continue for just a few moments more before both started gabbling at once and the conversation descended into unintelligibility. A noisy draw.

Loot and who?

FOR police in Hampton Wick, West London, catching an inept

burglar was easy. Finding the victim and the scene of the crime is proving a little trickier.

Bobbies nicked the hapless individual in the course of breaking and entering. The loot from another break-in, mostly jewellery and watches, was stuffed down his trousers, and he confessed all.

Or nearly all: he couldn't remember where the swag had come from. This became a problem when nobody reported the items missing. The culprit was bundled out to a panda car and taken on a snail's pace tour of the neighbourhood. Still no result. "He remembers roughly where he stole it from, but he can't find the house itself," explains the investigating officer. "He's not from the area you see."

Silver spoons

WHAT promise to be the most mischievous memoirs since Alan Clark's are to be published next spring. Lord McAlpine, a former Treasurer of the Conservative Party, has agreed a deal for his autobiography with the publisher Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

McAlpine refuses to be drawn on the book's probable contents, but one or two ministers such as John Gummer (with whom he has had several disagreeable encounters)



McAlpine: concrete cradle

are certain to come in for a pasting. Another probable target is the former Brussels minister Tristan Garrel-Jones. Lord McAlpine insists that the book will not be concerned with politics alone. "I was born in the Dorchester Hotel and my bottle was brought as part of the room service. Eisenhower was in the room next door. I was born there

because it was one of the few concrete buildings in London, because my family owned it and because it was 1942 — the middle of the war."

Speak up

AN ATTEMPT is to be made this week to trace the origins of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" to a small office in Oxford University. Frank Luntz, a precocious 32-year-old American pollster and a chief architect of the Republican Speaker's revolution, is to centre his quest on the offices of the student magazine *Isis*.

In the course of a visit to the university, he is hoping to dig out the issues of the magazine to which he contributed while a Touron scholar in the 1980s. In particular he wants to find his interview with a visiting speaker from across the Atlantic — one Newt Gingrich.

"He interviewed him over breakfast at the Randolph Hotel, and was totally dazzled," says one close to Luntz. "In light of the two men's spectacularly successful pre-presidential alliance, Luntz understandably wants to see the ensuing article because he cannot remember a word of what he wrote."

P.H.S



of Kent will give the citizens of the air offensive against

Whether the campaign should have lasted so long, and been conducted with such ferocity, is less obvious. In the official history

If there is a lesson to be drawn from this shattering moment, it is a simple one: that war forces horror, suffering and indecency upon men. Precisely because the Second World War was a just conflict, the bombing of Dresden has always been a barbarous embarrassment to the British. The reputation of Harris, in particular, has suffered as a consequence. But it is clear that the systematic bombing of German civilians was repeatedly approved by Churchill, Eden and other members of the war Cabinet. It also made bitter sense to a population battered by the Luftwaffe. Fifty years later, it is possible to look with different eyes upon this painful event. It is right that this change of perspective should be marked with a gift between peoples.

Britain's immigration policy is not threatened by Europe

Mr Wardle is also wrong in implying that immigration is yet another area where

As Mr Major said, immigration may be raised at next year's inter-governmental conference. But anyone who has watched the debate across the Channel should know that if there is one area on which the 15 are resolved, it is a determination that Europe must not be flooded with migrants from the East or South. Mr Wardle has ignored what his former office should have taught him, and has concentrated on an issue surrounded by populist emotion. It is a bad judgement and bad politics. The European debate needs instead proper focus on what are the real issues that must be faced in 1996.

Common sense on security is better than panic measures

But the theft of babies from maternity hospitals is one of the rarest crimes in Britain. Out of 800,000 births last year — around 98 per cent of which took place in

Before ever larger proportions of NHS funding are devoted to the installation of electronic equipment more suited to a prison than a hospital, it is important to recall that the emotional well-being of patients is often crucial to their recovery. Commonsense vigilance and staff training could well raise hospital security without casting patients further into frightening social isolation.

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

I am your obedient servant.
BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords.
February 8.

Lawson rebuttal

It is therefore a bit rich of Mr Simon Jenkins, in his uncharacteristically muddle-headed and error-strewn article of February 8, "The great utility scandal", to allege that "In his memoirs, Lord Lawson acknowledged that the Cabinet had concentrated 'too much on ownership and not enough on competition'". I manifestly did nothing of the sort — nor was that the case.

Future of monarchy

It is a shame that Dr Clark, a Fellow of All Souls, appears not to have read all of the book about which he makes such misleading assertions. The British right can surely do better than this when it tries to knock down its critics' arguments.

Culture gap

It was thus not "his" Government, but that of M. Balladur, which so defended the cultural exception in the closing months of the Gatt negotiations.

am, Sir, etc.
ROGER BEETHAM,
 8 rue Massenet.
 67000 Strasbourg.
 February 5.

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr George R. J. Guise

mer wish to keep and spend their own money whereas the latter wish to impound and spend other people's. A modern general election, in the United States or Western Europe is es-

One day that may well lead to a common ecu or even a single European currency.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HORDERN,
House of Commons.
February 8.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, It is not good enough for the Government to avoid taking a position on a single currency now. As the EC develops, issue after issue is being resolved and, as Bruce Anderson says ("Major's three steps to Euro peace", February 7), "it is not possible to have our own way on every issue. There is no alternative to negotiations and compromise".

In a situation of perpetual desamaking, unless you have an absolutely clear idea of what your ultimate objective is and what your destinations are unacceptable, then you will totally lose your way. The question of a single currency is significant because it is not possible to have anything that could be called a single currency without having one central bank, effectively a single government. A single currency is not essential to a single market, but is vital in a unified State.

It is therefore not possible to entrust management of day-to-day EC negotiations to a government that does not know today where it stands on such an

Flood risks

From Professor Dennis J. Parker
Sir, Professor Ward is right to identify the dangers of human encroachment into flood-prone areas (letter, February 9). The floods in northern Europe have been a reminder to us in Britain that despite our flood defences, many areas remain exposed and vulnerable to exceptional floods and that we are storing up problems for the future.

Boot camps

From Mr Peter Coad
Sir, The proposed introduction of American-style "boot camps" in Britain to provide "tougher and more physically demanding regimes aimed at knocking criminal tendencies out of young offenders" is an excellent idea (report, February 6; "Hard times at boot camp", February 8).

Executives' pay

From Mr John W. Lavington

Sir, On the assumption that before privatisation the senior executives of the privatised industries were paid only a fraction of their worth [reports, February 2, 6; letters, February 2, 4, 8], is it not surprising that not one of the many recruitment agencies sought to draw on such a vast pool of inadequately rewarded talent?

Earthly riches

From Mrs Maggie Innes
Sir, The Church of England finds it "a sad day when we have to dispose of our greatest asset" (report, February 5). I think it is a sad day when any church, whether of England or anywhere else, considers the MetroCentre shopping centre in Gateshead its greatest asset.

Yours faithfully,
MAGGIE INNES,
26 Lark Rise,
Martlesham Heath, Suffolk.
February 8.

Influence of TV

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, It has often been said that children do not act out what they see on television. Well, my seven-year-old son, having watched *Home Alone* this week, is busy fixing string across every doorway, placing little bits of Lego in strategic places, leaving the bathroom floor wet and slippery and no doubt at this moment is wiring the front-door handle into the mains. Perhaps the experts should think again, and quickly please...

Crown court fees

From Mr David Calvert-Smith
Sir, As leader of the Bar team in negotiation with the Lord Chancellor's Department on the crown court fees scheme referred to in Frances Gibb's report (February 3), may I make three short points on a complex topic?

Annual parliaments

From Mr Bob May

Sir, The Chartist's call for annual parliaments was dismissed on the grounds of practicality and the need for stability and continuity. However, if MPs were elected for four-year terms on a rolling basis, with a quarter coming up for re-election each year, would democracy not be better served?

It might do something about that unattractive feature of the current system, the safe seat. With elections each year, the first Thursday in May could be quite an occasion, and perhaps a fitting day for a public holiday.

Yours faithfully,
BOB MAY,
3 Swan Meadow,
Much Wenlock, Shropshire.
February 11

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

First, the basic shape of the proposed scheme, which will make an important contribution to controlling expenditure, was devised, and negotiations were initiated by the Bar.

Second, the proposals being negotiated do not involve the extension of the standard fee system currently in operation. The scheme involves the replacement of the standard fee by a wider system of "graduated" fees which will broadly reward the advocate according to the seriousness of the offence(s) with which his client is charged and the amount of work involved.

Third, both sides have agreed that this scheme cannot be expected to apply to all cases lasting ten days or less as suggested in your report, although we expect that the vast majority of such cases will come within it.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CALVERT-SMITH.
General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WCI.
February 3.



February 11: The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor, University of Edinburgh, this morning chaired a meeting of the General Council in the Senate Room, Old College, and later attended a Luncheon at the University.

The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, today attended the Race Day at Uttoxeter Racecourse and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire (Mr James Hawley). Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

February 12: Mr Hugh Roberts

Mr Michael Aizenborough, executive producer, Royal Shakespeare Company, 45, Dr J. J. C. Clayton, chairman, Guinness, Mahon Holdings, 68; Mr David Banks, editorial director, MGN, 47; Mrs Caroline Blakiston, actress, 62; Mr Liam Brady, footballer, 39; Professor Derek Burke, vice-chancellor, University of East Anglia, 65; Earl Judge, 81; Dr J. J. C. Clayton, literary agent, 45; Mr John H. Householder at Windsor, 74; Miss M. E. Collins, former mastron-in-chief, QARNNS, 68; Mr Gareth Davies, chairman, Glywedd International, 65; Baroness Flather, 61; Dr D.G. Hessayon, horticultural and agricultural author, 67; Professor Lord Lewis of Newhampton, 67; Mr John McAlpine, 47; Mr John McMaster, MP, 38; Lord Masters, 72; Mr Colin Matthews, composer, 49; the Earl of Moray, 67; Miss Kim Novak, actress, 62; Mr Leonard Pascoe, cricketer, 62; Lord Peyton of Yeovil, 76; Lord Pym, 73; Mr Oliver Reed, actor, 57; Miss Margaretta Sloan-Acheson, 63; Jean-Jacques Sureau-Schreibler, 63; Mr John St. John, 63; Donald Stynes, former principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 66.

1728; David Allan, painter, Alton,
1744; Lord Randolph Churchill,
statesman, Blenheim Palace, 1849;
Feodor Chaliapin, singer and
actor, Kazan, Russia, 1873; Eleanor
Farjeon, writer of children's verse
and stories, London, 1891; Georges
Simenon, writer and creator of
Maigret, Liège, 1901.

DEATHS: Benvenuto Cellini, sculptor and goldsmith, Florence, 1571; Jacopo da Bassano, painter, Bassano, Venice, 1592; Cotton Mather, Puritan and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1728; Richard Wagner, composer, Venice, 1883; Georges Rouault, expressionist painter, Paris, 1958; Dame Christabel Fankhurst, suffragette, Los Angeles, 1958.

The Accession of William III and Mary in 1689.
The massacre of the MacDonalds at Glencoe by the Campbells in 1692.
The Dutch spy Mata Hari was arrested by the French in 1917.
The Nuffield Foundation was established in 1943.
Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the USSR in 1974.



By ROBIN BARNWELL

A GROUP of metal detecting enthusiasts, whose patient probing of the Thames mud has found everything from pilgrims' badges to a beautiful 17th Century ring, fear proposed European laws could end their activities.

Despite having fought off two earlier attempts to stop their excavations, the Thames Society of Mudlarks in London fear that the growing momentum among European governments to protect national treasures will hasten the introduction of Europe-wide

controls. According to the Mudjarks, treasure hunting by metal detector is restricted in France, Germany, Sweden and Ireland.

Last week the announced sale of a 17th Century gold

The ring, with an estimated value of £20,000, is the society's third historically significant find.

cant discovery since its foundation in 1980. In 1984 a 15th Century necklace fetched a similar price, while the projected sale of another ring, later in the year, is expected to set a record at auction.

The Mudlarks are the product of a dispute in the late 1970s between the Port of London Authority, the Museum of London and the growing band of treasure hunters along the Thames foreshore. PLA regulations banning dig-

The new group named itself the Mudlarks and appointed

The first "mudlarks" were discovered by Henry May

hew, a journalist in Dickensian London. They were the children of the poor, trawling the mud for valuables.

Present day versions such as Mr Mills use old maps of London and details of Canaletto paintings as guides. These sources reveal the locations of the network of steps leading to the water boatmen, who for centuries piloted Londoners across the Thames. It is here that the losses of the past are found: dropped jewellery, a pilgrim's badge, the water boatman's wages or the gentleman's sword, preserved in the mud over the years.

Mr Tom Keeble
A service to celebrate the life of Mr Tom Keeble was held on Saturday at St Andrew's, Oakington, Cambridge. The Rev James Alexander officiated and the Reverend A.A. Macintosh, Dean of St

The Rev Hugh Alexander read the lesson and Nicholas Keeble, grandson, read from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. Mr Giles Keeble, son, gave an address.

worth £4,000

ASPIRING journalists still at school or university can win £4,000 in prize money in this year's T.E. Utey Memorial Awards, set up in 1968 in memory of the distinguished

Mrs Hermine Asanoor, of London
SW3 £1,091.00

Mrs Lilian Frances Penelope
Bleakley of Aylesbury, Bucks
Hampshire £771.00

Mr Leonard Albert Deverell, of
Petersen Super Ely, South
Gloucestershire £759.42

Mr John Dennis Driver, of Bude
Wells, Powys £558.60

Mr Malcolm Garvie, of Regents
Park, London NW1 £561.52

Mrs Pamela Ann Hicks, of
Stowmarket, Suffolk £1,628.21

Mr Basil Albert Percy Jury, of
London SW17 £2,323.94

Mrs Irene Cecilia Larkin, of
Berchell, East Sussex £506.66

Eleanor Constance Macehead of

Wartingham, Surrey £556.050
Mrs Cheryl Stevens, of Gouldhurst, Kent £680.580
Mr Frank Kenneth Wall, of Walmley, West Midlands £964.581
Mr Joseph Abram Wernick, of Wolverhampton £954.566
Mr Joseph Lionel Westock, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire £635.443
Mr Ian Peter Burgess, of Ludlow Salop £559.175
Mr David Arthur Evans, of Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire £727.525
Mr John Howard Harvey, of Parbold, Lancashire £573.590

The Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum appointed Mrs Margaret Richardson to succeed Mr Peter Thornion as Curator from April 8, 1995. Three new Life Trustees, Sir Philip Powell, CH, Mrs Bridget Cherry and Mr Richard Griffiths were recently appointed in place of Viscount Esher, Sir Trenchard Cox and Sir Derys Buckley, who retired in 1994.

The Austrian Ambassador, Dr George Hennig, gave a reception on Thursday at the Hyde Park Hotel for members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and other Jewish organisations to meet President Klesl of Austria. Sir Sigmund Sternberg led the delegation which included Lord Wolfson, of Marylebone, Lord Young of Gramham and Mr Sidney Coroh, CBE.



GREENFINCHES are leaving the winter flocks and returning to their nesting territories. The males are olive green with grey and gold wings, and are sitting in the trees making their wheezing spring call. By lakesides, male red buntings are swaying on the tops of bulrushes to deliver their jerky song. In the winter, their head-feathers have brown tips, but these have grown off to leave them with a smooth black cap and a sharply-defined white collar.

Grey herons are back by their bulky tree-top nests, where they are forming pairs. The male points his long bill at the sky and makes a honking

noise. When an interested female settles by him, he bows his head forward and snaps his mandibles. Some females will be laying eggs before the end of the month. In the mountains, ravens are repairing their nests of sticks and heather on the cliff ledges, regardless of the weather.

Most of the pearly-white mistletoe berries have now been eaten by birds, and there are already new yellow flowers in the forks between the pairs of leaves. Pagoda-shaped plants of goosegrass are coming up in the ditches but many of them will be overwhelmed by later vegetation.

DJM

FAX: 0171 481 9313
FAX: 0171 782 7828

[illegible]

OBITUARIES

John Halas, OBE, film animator, died in London on January 20 aged 82. He was born in Budapest on April 16, 1912.

A HUNGARIAN-born film-maker who came to epitomise the British style of film animation, John Halas was an influential force in an era when British animation dominated the medium. The Halas and Batchelor studio, which Halas set up with his wife Joy Batchelor, was for more than 40 years the largest animation studio in the UK, producing more than two thousand films ranging from cinema features, television series, commercials and experimental productions.

These films, which between them won hundreds of awards, included *Animal Farm*, an animated version of George Orwell's novel produced in 1954 which was the first feature-length cartoon film made in Britain. Growing up in Budapest, John Halas was strongly influenced by the Hungarian Bauhaus movement, and his encounters with such figures as Moholy-Nagy and Victor Vassarely. He lost close friends and relatives in the Holocaust and his films had the recurring theme of a world destroyed by war, pollution, and technology out of control. For instance, *Automania 3000* (1963) shows the world grinding to a halt piled up with cars. *The Question* seeks the meaning of life through politics, religion, art, and science. His award-winning film *Dilemma* (1981) used computer techniques to look at mankind's problems and the efforts to control them.

Halas studied painting and animation; he worked with George Pal the puppeteer film maker, and formed his first studio in Hungary in 1932. He later went to Paris briefly before moving in 1936 to London, where he met Joy Batchelor, then working as an animator and fashion artist. In 1940 they established a small studio, and joined the J. Walter Thompson film unit, making commercials. In the same year they married, and formed their own company, Halas and Batchelor, but were promptly bombed out.

With the war came the demand for propaganda films. Through an introduction by John Grierson, the documentary film maker, the Central Office of Information then hired the



John Halas with one of his drawings for *Animal Farm*

studio to make a series of films which eventually numbered 70. Commissions followed from other Government departments and the company expanded fast, becoming the largest animation studio in the UK and remaining so until the 1980s.

Halas's particular strength was as an organiser. He had inexhaustible energy and travelled the world producing and involving himself in film projects until a few months before his death. As a founder member, and for many years the president, of ASIFA, the international animation organisation, he promoted animation around the world. With his interest in graphics as a key element in the art of animation, he involved himself with the international design association ICGRADA of which he was president for some time. He was also

chairman of the British Federation of Film Societies. For some years he held these posts concurrently as well as being a full-time producer.

He was a prolific writer on animation, producing hundreds of articles and collaborating on many animation books including *Art in Movement*, *Computer Animation* and *Visual Scripting*. He also produced a series of video interviews with leading international animators, thus preserving a heritage that might have been lost. Over and above this he involved himself in the organising of conferences, festivals, and training schemes.

On a personal level, Halas had an old world, central European charm. In spite of living in the UK for nearly 60 years, he still retained a strong Hungarian accent. Such Goldwynisms as, "To put it in a short

nutshell", and "We are neck to neck", were also his trademark. Dinners at his beautiful Hampstead house would bring together illustrious names and unknown talents. Many animators made essential contacts for their careers through such meetings.

He could at times show aspects of eccentric meanness and extreme generosity. He had animation pegs and paper made in a non-standard size so no one would take them, a saving at most of a few pounds. Yet for many years he funded the UK ASIFA office at his own expense, which must have cost thousands.

The true legacy of John Halas was his insight into how animation could best be used. Early on he perceived its value as a documentary and teaching medium. He advised the

United Nations on using animation as a universal language for third world countries. He also saw how animation could be developed with new technology. His studio experimented with holography, 3D systems, computer animation, xeroxed drawings, and a whole range of new techniques and styles well before their general acceptance by the industry as a whole.

Twenty years ago he was saying, "Computers will give us the art of the future" and his studio was the first to use computers for regular animation. His book *Computer Animation* was the first on the subject here, and he helped to promote the concepts in this field.

John Halas was appointed OBE in 1972 and awarded the Pro Cultura Hungaricus in 1992. His wife died in 1991. He leaves a son and daughter.

HIS HONOUR
JAMES KINGHAM

His Honour James Kingham, DL, formerly a Circuit judge, died on February 8 aged 69. He was born on August 9, 1925.



JAMES KINGHAM was a very active barrister and Circuit judge, who on his retirement from the bench at the age of 65 embarked on a third career as a law lecturer.

Educated at Wycliffe College, James Frederick Kingham went up to Queen's College, Cambridge, where he read history and law. From 1943 until 1947 he served as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1951 and was soon a busy practitioner in London and on the Midland Circuit.

When a large number of young barristers felt they were under-represented on the Bar Council, they selected him as the candidate most likely to attract the votes of his generation. As a result he served as an excellent member of his profession's governing body from 1954 until 1958.

His judicial experience began with a spell as a part-time judge, sitting as a deputy Recorder of Nottingham from 1966 to 1972. With the introduction of the Crown Court he was appointed a Recorder in his own right, being promoted to a Circuit Judge in 1973. He served as such for 17 years, mainly in Luton County Court, where much of his time was devoted to hearing cases involving children, for which he had a special aptitude.

The welfare of young people was his greatest inspiration throughout his adult life. He devoted a considerable part of his spare time to the Scout movement, in particular to Venture Scouts. He was a great believer in getting young people involved in mountain climbing, skiing and other sports, and was an able all-round instructor. He could not go far without being stopped for a chat by a police-constable or other young men who had been one of his Venture Scouts.

Kingham was a committed Christian with a strong sense of social responsibility; his concern was not merely for his sons, but for his neighbour generally. He and his wife Vivienne and their children consistently gave help to youngsters with emotional or other problems. Their warm family home was a refuge for many in need. His valuable work for young people was acknowledged when he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire in 1989.

He retired from the bench at the age of 65, although entitled to sit until 72. He retired early mainly because he longed to teach law and do other things. Immediately after his retirement James Kingham started teaching at Cambridge, and he was soon asked to undertake law lecturing for commercial law undertakings as well. He also spoke on current legal topics on his local radio station. From 1991 he served on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and more recently, also on the Parole Board. He was even busier after his retirement than before — but that was how he wanted it. He did not approve of the word "retirement" but preferred to speak of his "new career". He was driving to Cambridge to teach when he was involved in the four-vehicle crash in which he died.

He is survived by his wife Vivienne and their two daughters and two sons.

PROFESSOR
C. B. WILSON

C. B. Wilson, Professor of Architectural Science and senior vice-principal at the University of Edinburgh, died from a heart attack on January 28 aged 59. He was born in Loughborough on July 12, 1935.

EVERY successful university depends heavily on a small number of gifted academics who can devote their analytical intellects and innovative skills to institutional problems extending way beyond the confines of their departments. Barrie Wilson was a supreme example of such an invaluable individual.

Educated at Liverpool University, where he taught for six years as a lecturer in environmental physics, Christopher Barrie Wilson moved to Edinburgh University in 1967.

Originally a theoretical physicist, he became interested in the relationship between urban climate (especially wind-flows) and building design.

His personal research was highly mathematical, but he accepted that research students trained in architecture (he was responsible for 12 of them at the time of his death) had limited mathematical ability. He supervised them instead in the study of architectural theory and introduced them to the architecture of traditional societies such as China, Japan and the Islamic world. These subjects later began to influence his own research.

His personal interests were

very diverse, encompassing music, literature, aspects of philosophy, as well as carpentry (he was preparing frames for a public exhibition of his wife's paintings at the time of his death).

This breadth of talent was reflected in his contributions to the life of the University of Edinburgh. At one time or another he was a guiding influence in activities as diverse as the University Press, the School of Epistemology, the university's corporate initiatives in the environment, its place in Scotland, its relations with the city of Edinburgh and with the surrounding region.

The university's estates and buildings were another abiding interest. Administratively, he served two terms as a very successful Dean of Social Sciences before becoming the longest serving vice-principal in 1987 with responsibility at first for planning and development, and later for the university's future strategy.

He played a key role in the university's recovery from the financial crisis that struck it in 1990. He led a "task force" that began to get to grips with the immediate problem, and later convened the working group whose efforts resulted in the academic restructuring of the university, a vital component of its successful recovery from the crisis.

His achievements owe much to his patience, respect for fellow academics, and his total commitment to the ideal of a university.

He is survived by his wife Anna and two daughters.

ART TAYLOR

Art Taylor, jazz drummer and author, died in New York on February 6 aged 65. He was born there on April 6, 1929.

HARD top was the movement in jazz that followed the bebop revolution of the 1940s and replaced the harmonic and melodic experiments of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie with a lean, aggressive, pared down version of their invention, cross-fertilised with soul. Art Taylor was a leading figure in this transition, although he was a drummer of such talent that he was sought out to play in many other styles.

His prolific recording career encompassed work with Coleman Hawkins, Miles Davis, Dexter Gordon and, in particular, John Coltrane with whom he cut the hugely influential *Soultrane* and *Giant Steps* albums in the late 1950s. As a bandleader in his own right, Taylor led his own *Wailers*, a group formed in the 1950s, and re-formed in the late 1980s, when it became a training ground for many new jazz players.

Taylor's career as a drummer would in itself have guaranteed him a place in jazz history, since he appeared on more than 300 recording sessions. In 1968, however, he began a series of interviews with his fellow musicians designed to record their views on jazz and society. Unable to find a commercial publisher, he published the results of his work himself, while living in Belgium, in 1977. *Notes of the Book*, *Notes* and *Tones*, spread, and it became regarded as a valuable oral history document, being republished in the United States after Robert Palmer, writing in *The New York Times* said, "no matter who you are or what



group you come from, if you read this book you'll get mad at some of the opinion these musicians express".

Arthur S. Taylor Jr. grew up in Harlem and, after studying with Chick Morrison, used to jam in a local church hall with other up-and-coming musicians, such as Sonny Rollins and Jackie McLean. He made his professional debut in 1948 with trumpeter Howard McGhee and went on to play and record with many major figures including Bud Powell, with whom he worked frequently during the pianist's short and tragic career, both in the US and in France.

When he came to interview his subjects for *Notes and Tones*, Taylor always devoted questions to Powell, doing much to shed some light on a career shrouded in obscurity and confusion.

He discovered the attraction

of Europe in the mid-1950s, when he toured with Donald Byrd. Taylor settled in Belgium in 1963, and played regularly in Belgium, Denmark and France with fellow expatriates, including Powell, Gordon and Johnny Griffin. He played infrequently in the 1970s, but returned to the French club circuit in 1984 and then moved back to the US, where he re-established his band and taught master-classes, as well as hosting a regular interview programme on the local radio station WKCR.

Many of Taylor's earlier records have recently been reissued. His most recent disc, *Waitin' at the Vanguard*, recorded in 1992, had been released to critical acclaim, especially for his abilities as a talent spotter in launching the careers of saxophonist Willie Williams and pianist Jacky Terrasson.

ADOLF BUTENANDT

Adolf Butenandt, chemist and Nobel prize winner in 1939, died on January 18 aged 91. He was born in Bremerhaven-Lehe (now Wesermünde) on March 24, 1903.

ADOLF BUTENANDT was responsible for isolating the sex hormones oestrone, androsterone and progesterone. For this achievement he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1939 but, together with another German winner (Gerhard Domagk who won the medical category), was not allowed to receive the prize because of Hitler's anger with the Nobel Committee over the award in 1933 of the peace prize to Karl von Ossietzky, an opponent of fascism who was in a concentration camp.

It was not until 1949 that Butenandt finally went to Stockholm to receive the award, which he had shared with the Swiss chemist Leopold Ruzicka. Butenandt was one of the outstanding biochemists of the century over which his long life extended. His isolation of the sex hormones oestrone, androsterone and progesterone were followed in the 1950s by the isolation of the first insect hormone, and the first phenomene, bombykol, the scent used by the female silkworm to attract the male. Though Butenandt had a first-rate team of colleagues and postgraduate students to help him, he was always the initiator as regards what he hoped to discover.

Adolf Friedrich Johann Butenandt studied at the universities of Marburg and Göttingen, gaining his PhD in 1927. He worked with Adolf Windaus, who had pioneered studies into the natural chemicals of the body, and in 1930 became director of the organic

chemical laboratories. By then he had achieved his first major success, isolating in the summer of 1929 the hormone oestrone from the urine of pregnant women. An oestrogen oestrone is one of a group of substances responsible for the development of sexual maturity in women.

In 1931 Butenandt isolated androsterone, a male sex hormone produced by cells in the testicles. He began with only 15 milligrams of the hormone, but by using microanalytical methods was able to deduce a formula. In 1934 Ruzicka used Butenandt's suggested structure to synthesise androsterone from a closely related structure, and it was found to have all the properties of the real thing, proving Butenandt's deductions to have been correct.

His greatest success came in 1934, when he was able to isolate a few milligrams of the hormone, progesterone, that prepares the uterus to receive the egg, and maintains the uterus during pregnancy. To isolate even this tiny quantity, Butenandt had to extract the *corpus luteum* — the endocrine gland that produces it — from no less than 50,000 pigs. Progesterone is the most important of the female hormones involved in pregnancy, and in conjunction with oestrogen forms the basis of the contraceptive pill.

In 1936 Butenandt was made director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biochemistry in Berlin, a post he held until 1972. After the war the institute moved first to Tübingen and then to Munich, changing its name to the Max Planck Institute. In 1960 Butenandt was elected president of the Max Planck Society, in succession to the physicist Otto Hahn. He headed the organisation for 12



years and on his retirement became honorary chairman until his death.

During the 1950s Butenandt and colleagues isolated the first insect hormone, ecdysone, which causes the silkworm *Bombyx mori* to pupate. Silkworms were particularly convenient to work with, as they were one of the few insects reared commercially, and therefore a ready source for the large quantity of pupae needed to be extracted from the cocoons. He went on to discover the pheromone bombykol in 1959, a powerful attractant produced by the female which can draw the male from great distances.

Butenandt received many honours and awards, including an honorary degree from Cambridge in 1966. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1968 and of the French Academy of Sciences in 1974.

He married Erica von Ziegner in 1931, and they had two sons and five daughters.

Royal Air Force College Cranwell

Air Marshal I.D. Macdonald, Director General of Saudi Air Force Projects, was the Reviewing Officer at the Graduation of 81 Reviewing Officers at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on February 9.

Graduating officers of no 155 initial officer-training course:

General Duties Branch - Pilot
Flying Officers G Bagnall BSc, D J M Bowler BEng, P S Crutchlow BSc, J E Dewar BEng, A J K Lund BSc, I Percival BEng, S Priest BEng, S Trimble BA, Pilot Officers H R Bond BSc, MSc, P Davidson BSc, A V Dow BEng, N S Giles BEng MSc, H C Hedley-Lewis LLB, D A Livingstone BEng.

General Duties Branch - Navigator
Flying Officer K B Graham BEng; Pilot Officers M J Brown BSc, E Borne BA, A J P Dore BEng MSc, J M Lansley BSc, A J Ludman BEng, J Parkinson BSc, D J Wightman BEng, P G Williams BEng, R J Wilson BEng; Acting Pilot Officer T A N McLuskie.

Electronics Officer
Flying Officer K R Hopkins.

General Duties Branch - Air Loadmaster
Flying Officers L A Stainton, J E Toes.

General Duties (Ground) Branch - Air Traffic Control
Pilot Officers N Garner BSc, C J Hamilton BEng, S McGlynn BA; Acting Pilot Officer D L Coomer.

General Duties (Ground) Branch - Fighter Control
Flying Officers F Graham, N E Hoskins BSc, J M Nichols BA; Pilot Officers S A Alcock BA, J E Britton MA DipM, R J Niven BSc PGCE, S F Webb BA.

Supply Branch
Flying Officers P D Collingswood, R A J Nash, F Wiseman BA; Pilot Officers P J Dryer BSc, C A Moorehead BSc, S L Wright BSc.

Administrative Branch - Secretarial
Flying Officers A C Allen, M Lumson BEng, S D Sharp BSc; Pilot Officers T G Chalkley BSc, S J Roberts; Acting Pilot Officer K Mahton.

Administrative Branch - Catering
Pilot Officer B Cartwright.

Security Branch - RAF Regiment
Flying Officers I Foster, P B Hately BA.

Security Branch - Provost
Flying Officer R W Irwin.

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service
Flight Lieutenant D A Hecht RGN RSCN.

Foreign and Commonwealth Students
Kuwait Air Force Pilot.

Acting Pilot Officers A Al Awadhi, T B Razouli.

Qatar Emirate Air Force
Pilot.

Second Lieutenants M Al Naser, S H S Hadeed, H M J Marouf Farhan, H H M Al Salem.

Royal Brunei Armed Forces
Pilot.

Second Lieutenants A H M Hasreen.

Fighter Control
Officer Cadet L Banks.

Prize-winners of the graduating course
The Sword of Merit: Flying Officer C J Egan BEng.

The Hennessy Trophy and Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize: Pilot Officer S J Bellamy BEng.

The British Aircraft Corporation Trophy: Flying Officer S Trimble BA.

Overseas Students' Prize: Officer Cadet L Banks HAF.

Group Captain Williams Memorial Trophy: Pilot Officer B Cartwright.

The Sarah Moland Memorial Prize: Second Lieutenant A H M Hasreen RRAF.

HEAVY SMOKING AND CANCER

Some Relationship Established

Mr Macleod, the Minister of Health, made an official announcement yesterday that a relationship has been established between smoking and cancer of the lung. He emphasized that uniformed and alarmist conclusions should not be drawn from this information, which was contained in a report presented to him by the Standing Advisory Committee on Cancer and Radiography.

The Minister's statement was made in a written Parliamentary answer to Mr A E Cooper, Conservative MP for Ilford South. The committee warn young people of the risks apparently attendant on excessive cigarette smoking, but the Minister pointed out that there is so far no firm evidence of the way in which smoking may cause lung cancer, or of the extent to which it does so. In a statement issued later, a group of tobacco companies said that last December they had offered to give £250,000 for research into the causes of the disease and, on the advice of the Minister of Health, had agreed to offer the money to the Medical Research Council.

The answer to Mr Cooper stated that "having considered the report of the panel under the chairmanship of the Government

ON THIS DAY

February 13 1954

Forty years on, "risks apparently attendant" to smoking have become firmly and deadly evident. In fact they go back to the last century (On This Day, September 25 1899: Tobacco Diseases 1879)

Actuary on the statistical evidence of an association between smoking and cancer of the lung and having received the other evidence available to them, the committee are of opinion that it must be regarded as established that there is a relationship between smoking and cancer of the lung.

"Though there is a strong presumption that the relationship is causal, there is evidence that the relationship is not a simple one, since the evidence in support of the presence in tobacco smoke of a carcinogenic agent causing

cancer of the lung is not yet certain: the statistical evidence indicates that it is unlikely that the increase in the incidence of cancer of the lung is due entirely to increases in smoking and the differences in incidence between urban and rural areas and between different towns suggest that other factors may be operating, such as atmospheric pollution."

The committee, who for three years have been giving close consideration to the matter, state: "Although no immediate dramatic fall in death rates could be expected if smoking ceased, since the development of lung cancer may be the result of factors operating over many years, and although no reliable quantitative estimates can be made of the effect of smoking on the incidence of cancer of the lung, it is desirable that young people should be warned of the risks apparently attendant on excessive smoking. It would appear that the risk increases with the amount smoked, particularly of cigarettes."

At yesterday's Press conference it was pointed out that between 1911 and 1949 deaths from cancer of the lung numbered about 250 a year, whereas by 1951 the number had risen to 11,666 males and 2,081 females. The figures also showed that the highest mortality rate from lung cancer in men occurred between 65 and 74, and in women from the age of 75.

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England women put pride before prejudice

TIMES SPORT



Shearer meets Berg's cross to score Blackburn Rovers' third goal in their FA Carling Premiership defeat of Sheffield Wednesday at Ewood Park yesterday. Photograph: Tony Marshall

Sheffield Wednesday overwhelmed after dismissal of Pressman

Rovers return in top gear

Blackburn Rovers 3
Sheffield Wednesday 1

By PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United's hold on the leadership of the FA Carling Premiership lasted little more than 24 hours. Blackburn Rovers swept aside Sheffield Wednesday as the rain poured down at Ewood Park yesterday to reclaim the position they have held for most of the season.

"It will take a great team to keep us away from the title now," Steve Bruce, the Manchester United captain, claimed after his side's victory over Manchester City on Saturday had taken them to the top for the first time since November. Blackburn may not be a great team, at least not yet, but they are a powerful, remorselessly competitive one.

It will take a better side than Sheffield Wednesday to interrupt their progress. Yesterday, goals from Sherwood, Aldins and, inevitably, Shearer, his 28th of the season, took them two points clear of United, with a significantly superior goal difference to boot.

Even without four regulars because of injury and suspension, they were far too strong for Wednesday even before the Yockshiremen were reduced to ten men by the dismissal of Pressman on the stroke of the interval for deliberate handball. Even with 11 men, Wednesday looked as if they were still feeling sorry for themselves after their untimely Cup exit against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday. By

the second half, as the pitch began to glisten in the rain, they looked a sorry, bedraggled lot.

By contrast, Blackburn's hunger was unmissable. Shearer and Sutton tore Wednesday's defence to ribbons with their eager running, while behind them Sherwood celebrated his England call-up in style, his spectacular goal the highlight of a vibrant display as Blackburn ran riot in midfield, not even the absence of Ripley and Wilcox undermining their control.

The only surprise was that it took Blackburn so long to turn their authority into goals.

They might easily have been three ahead in the first 15 minutes as Wednesday's defensive shortcomings were exposed.

After only three minutes Pearce missed Mimm's long

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kick, but Sutton shot weakly after Shearer had sent him in. Another four minutes and Sherwood's run and Berg's pass combined to free the Rovers captain, but Sherwood

was forced wide and when he laid the ball on for Sutton, it was deflected.

To prove that there is more to Rovers than their front pair, Wright then released Atkins to cut in on the beleaguered Pressman, but with glory beckoning, the midfielder player looked for his striker and Sutton had run offside. Again Wednesday had survived, but less through their own efforts than a temporary lack of ruthlessness on Blackburn's part. Their defence was again at sixes and sevens when Shearer sent Atkins to the byline. Sutton met the cross with a point-blank header but

Pressman proved equal to the demands with a breathtaking save.

Wednesday's escape this time lasted less than a minute. The corner that followed was played to Sherwood just outside the penalty area and he rifled the ball beyond Pressman and in off the post.

Blackburn should quickly have been two up as Shearer evaded the offside trap to run onto Wright's pass. For once, however, the deadliest marksman in English football failed to hit the target, shooting against Pressman's legs as the goalkeeper came out.

The first half-hour had been

one way traffic but Wednesday ended it by levelling. Sinton's cross from the left glanced off Hendry, Sheridan met it with one of his rare meaningful contributions and poked it in to Waddle, standing virtually on the penalty spot. Scoring from penalties is not Waddle's forte, as he reminded everyone on Wednesday, but in open play the white blob holds no terrors for him and he hit the ball past Mimm's.

Wednesday were level for two minutes. Once again their defence was totally exposed at a corner. Warhurst hit the right-hand post, the ball screwed beyond the other post and was returned by Shearer. At least two Wednesday defenders could have cleared but the ball went off Petrescu's head and Atkins tucked it back into the net.

This time Blackburn were not to be caught. Any hope Wednesday had of recovering was ended when Pressman tackled Sutton outside the area but then handled as Warhurst hit the loose ball towards the empty net.

Woods came on and announced his arrival with a fine save from Shearer's free kick, but the former England goalkeeper was helpless when Shearer at last got his goal just after the hour, heading Berg's cross low into the corner.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2) R Mirams — H Berg, I Pearce, C Hendry, A Wright — R Slater, M Aldins, T Sherwood, P Warhurst — A Shearer, C Sutton.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-1-1) K Pressman — P Atherton, A Pearce, D Walker, I Nolan — D Petrescu (sub: M Williams, 50min), J Sheridan (sub: G Whitham, 60), C Bird-Williams, A Sinton (sub: C Woods, 44) — C Waddle — M Bught.
Referee: P Jones.

Cantona gets Millichip's sympathy

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND PETER BALL

SIR Bert Millichip, chairman of the Football Association, said yesterday he had great sympathy with Eric Cantona and described his alleged drop-kick on an Independent Television News reporter as "a totally un-football related matter".

Cantona, 28, is alleged to have injured Terry Lloyd, 42, at a beach on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, using a flying kick reminiscent of his attack on the Crystal Palace supporter, Matthew Simmons.

"I had great sympathy for him that people were chasing him all over the world. They have followed him around to take pictures of him," Sir Bert said.

He added that he had "sympathy for people who are looking for a bit of peace".

Sir Bert, 80, was speaking from his home in Birmingham while, across the

Atlantic, Lloyd was nursing a suspected broken rib.

The French forward already faces disciplinary action by the FA for misconduct and bringing the game into disrepute because of his violence towards Mr Simmons, who taunted him for being sent off against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on January 25. The footballer will appear before the FA on February 24.

David Davies, the FA spokesman, said: "We are in touch with Manchester United, but there is nothing we can say until we have established what happened."

"All I know is what I heard on ITN," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "Until we get a report, or talk to Eric when he returns later this week, there's nothing we can say about it."

Lloyd yesterday sought medical attention for his bruised torso but the police on Guadeloupe said they had

received no complaint of assault. "As far as we know, it was just a clash of words," a policeman from Sainte-Anne told Reuters. "The reporter did not lodge a complaint and did not speak to us about blows."

The ITN Editor-in-Chief, Stewart Purvis, is to be asked why Lloyd came to be "tormenting" Cantona on Guadeloupe in the first place.

Terry Lewis, Labour MP for the Worsley constituency of Manchester, said that the wrong questions were being asked and he was writing to Purvis.

"The question is not what Cantona did. The first question which has to be asked is: 'What is ITN doing half the way round the world tormenting a guy who has gone away for a week or ten days for peace and quiet and then, without permission, taking pictures of his pregnant wife on a beach?'"

Doubts over Graham, page 27



Lineker takes chance to be focus of attention

There is something rather strange about Gary Lineker. Remember what happened when he went off to Japan: slowly, steadily and ever so gently, time finally caught up with him. The temples acquired a generous fleck of grey, the lines around the eyes became rather more than a by-product of that familiar smile.

But now the whole ageing process has gone into reverse. Four weeks into his new job as the BBC's leading soccer pundit and Lineker is looking younger by the game. Small wonder, then, that at the end of *Football Focus*'s recent tribute to Sir Stanley Matthews, Ray Stubbs simply turned to Lineker and asked, "How old are you?" The point was nicely made — Lineker is 34, some 16 years younger

than Matthews was when he reluctantly called it a day. If he carries on getting younger at the present rate, the next phone call won't be from an irate George Graham but from his old mentor, Terry Venables: "Just wondered whether you fancied a game on Wednesday, Gary?"

But it's not just Lineker's looks that are familiar. So, too, is the way he deals with (I) is going to say "tackle", but somehow the word and Lineker still do not go together) his new job. Up pops a controversy — bungs, Cantona, referees, whatever — and there is Lineker to tap it home coolly. From goal-hanging to scandal-hanging, the transition has been characteristically effortless.

Like scoring goals, punditry is largely a matter of timing



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

and, as ever, Lineker's has been impeccable — almost uncannily so, in fact. In the four weeks since he slid those famous thighs under the desk at *Football Focus*, the game has seen enough off-the-ball incident to keep Saint and Greavsie in pious indignation for years. But, thankfully, that is not Lineker's style. Instead he tackles (there, I've said it) the game's mounting problems with intelligence, restraint and a nice line in humour. His day-one crack

about hoping that "George Graham's defence was better than Arsenal's" may have got him into trouble (it also got him noticed) but the gentle jibe at Jack Charlton on Saturday was spot-on: "If Jack ever caught one of those Scottish salmon, he'd probably claim it was of Irish descent."

That said, *Football Focus* on Saturday gave perhaps the strongest indication that reports that the crisp-punching Lineker had dumped the Mr Nice Guy tag were premature.

Instead, he was reason personified. The mid-week crowd trouble at Chelsea was sensibly downplayed, with Lineker going out of his way to praise both police and club. In fact, the nearest he got to controversy was his unsympathetic response to Chris Waddle's FA Cup penalty miss: "He's a big boy now, he'll get over it."

But what Lineker's appearances on *Football Focus* and *Match of the Day* reveal is how his performance very much depends on who is setting things up. With Des Lynam, the chemistry is hopeless — they are too similar. If Lynam was a footballer, he would be a tap-in merchant — a quick shimmy in the six-yard box and then amble off to twinkle a roguish smile at the girls in the stands. On *Match of the Day*, Lynam does not so

much set Lineker up as bury it himself, with "questions" such as, "You were pretty impressed with Ryan Giggs" and "Cole seems like he's been playing with them for months". All Lineker can do is pick the topic out of the back of the net and bury it again. Stimulating debate it is not.

By contrast, Ray Stubbs (two, until a croaky Steve Rider took over on Saturday, has nurse-maided Lineker through *Football Focus*) brings out the best in his man, with a regular supply of well-flighted talking-points, conspicuous for the lack of his own opinions. His low-key approach is a model for any professional journalist hoping to work a neat one-two with the newly retired sportsman. You supply them and let the master knock 'em home.

Favourite surrenders six-shot lead

Ballesteros bows to Sandelin as Swede holds nerve

FROM MEL WEBB IN LAS PALMAS

EVER since the Canary Islands Open started at Maspalomas on Thursday, Severiano Ballesteros had led the tournament almost as of right. Until yesterday, that is, when a relatively unknown young Swedish golfer strode boldly into the court of King Seve and knocked his crown askew.

The tournament was won by Jarmo Sandelin who, playing in only the eighth PGA European Tour event of a seven-year professional career, had a closing round of 70 for a total of 282, six under par, with Ballesteros and Paul Eales sharing second place one shot behind. It was a remarkable display by Sandelin, 27, who trailed Ballesteros by six shots after five holes of the final round.

Sandelin was born of Finnish parents in a small town two miles from the Soviet border, but moved to Sweden in 1974 and later took out Swedish nationality. He cut his golfing teeth on pitch and putt courses, where he refined the short game that is today one of his strengths.

It was with a short iron that he played the stroke that was to be the death-knell of Ballesteros's hopes. It came on the 15th, which was as good a hole for him as it was calamitous for Ballesteros. Sandelin's second shot, hit with his 65-degree wedge — one of four he carries — drew up fractionally short of the green.

Outwardly calm but with nerves as taut as the strings in a tennis racket, he bumped and rolled it in with a birdie from 60 feet for a three, and indulged himself in a jubilant high-five with Jerry, his 31-year-old brother and caddy. He did not know it at

the time, but he had the tournament won.

Ballesteros, meanwhile, cast his drive right into one of the many sandy wastes that litter the Maspalomas course, and had to come out backwards from beneath a clump of large bushes. He hit the green with his third, but he took two putts from 20 feet for a bogey five to lose the lead for the first time in the tournament.

The hole thus yielded a two-stroke swing in Sandelin's favour, and the only other threat he had to a momentous victory came on the par-five

FINAL SCORES

105 & 6 no holes played: 282: J Sandelin (Swi) 74, 72, 68, 70, 282: P Eales (Eng) 72, 72, 71: S Ballesteros (Spa) 68, 68, 73, 73, 282: A Forsbrand (Swe) 72, 68, 72, 71, 285: S Straver (Ger) 73, 72, 73, 70, 286: J Clarke (Eng) 72, 69, 71, 72: G Emerson (Eng) 72, 71, 73, 287: P Quinn (Swe) 70, 70, 73, 73, 288: J McHenry (Eng) 72, 74, 68, 73, 289: J Cooper (Eng) 74, 68, 76, 70: G Brand Jr (Eng) 72, 74, 71, P Liner (Eng) 76, 68, 73, 71: P Cury (Ug) 74, 70, 75: G O'Connell (Ire) 74, 289: P Price (Eng) 73, 69, 73, 74, 290: R Burns (Eng) 72, 74, 71, S Tring (Eng) 72, 72, 74, 73: S Bannister (Eng) 74, 72, 74, 73: 75, 75, 74, 72: S Bannister (Eng) 72, 73, 73, 72: P Lewis (Eng) 72, 71, 68, 73: D Smyth (Eng) 72, 74: P Simpson (Eng) 70, 75, 68, 78.

home hole. After both had played two, Sandelin was short of the green while Ballesteros was in a greenside bunker. At that moment, Ballesteros was probably in better shape, wizard that he is from close range.

For once, Sandelin played a loose chip and left himself a horrible 12-foot downswing putt with a big left-to-right swing. Ballesteros, meanwhile, came out of the bunker and hit the green against the pronounced grain, and pulled up six feet short.

Sandelin missed with his birdie attempt, and Ballesteros

had the chance to send the tournament into a play-off. The gallery hushed; they did not want it to finish. But finish it did when Ballesteros's putt held its line until the last foot before escaping the hole by two inches to the left.

Ballesteros was obviously disappointed, but the compelling quality of his golf in the first two days contrasted dramatically with a lacklustre performance over the weekend, when he left his early accuracy off the tee behind in the locker-room.

Sandelin could have had no thought of winning after making a dreadful start to the final round, dropping three shots in the first four holes. He had a double-bogey six on the 2nd and a bogey on the fourth, which Ballesteros birdied to extend his lead to six shots. At that moment, it seemed that Ballesteros had the winner's cheque for £40,719 in his pocket.

It was not to be. Sandelin birdied the 6th, 7th and the short 8th, at the last of which Ballesteros dropped a shot for the fourth time in the tournament and saw his lead whittled away to two shots in the space of three holes. Sandelin played the last nine holes in two under par while Ballesteros, round in 73, was one over on the back nine.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Sandelin said. "It's only my fourth tournament since I got my card, and I've beaten my hero." The said hero, meanwhile, was outside signing autographs for a gang of small boys. When Sandelin strolled past, silverware in hand, few gave him a second glance. It takes more than one minor coup for a king such as he to give up his crown.



Ballesteros was unable to recover after dropping two shots on the 15th yesterday

Mason makes vital save for England

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND settled for fifth place at the Indira Gandhi hockey tournament in Delhi yesterday, with a 5-3 victory over Malaysia on penalty strokes after the scores were tied at 2-2.

Overall, this was an encouraging position for a young England team that had played together for the first time and had lost only to Kazakhstan in its opening match.

By half-time the score was 1-1. Crutchley having levelled the score from a penalty stroke in the fifteenth minute after Noor Saiful Zaini had put Malaysia ahead five minutes

earlier. Noor regained the lead for Malaysia from a short corner in the 45th minute but ten minutes before time Giles squared the match at 2-2.

In the penalty shoot-out, Wyatt, Giles, Lee, Conway and Crutchley were successful for England, while Mason made the vital save off Noor.

South Korea won the tournament, beating India 3-1 in the final, while Australia came third, beating Kazakhstan, also 3-1.

In England, Formby became the only non-league side to survive the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup yesterday by beating Firebricks 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out after the teams were locked 2-2 at full time and 3-3 after extra time.

More thrills were provided at Exeter School, where ISCA won 7-4 after being forced into extra time by Spencer, who were leading 2-1 at half-time. At the end of normal time the score was 3-3, before ISCA pushed up their workrate.

Hampstead and Westminster brought a fading game to life at Paddington by scoring twice early in the second half, eventually to lose 3-2 to Richmond.

In the one National League match played yesterday, St Albans beat Croxtly 3-2 to share the leadership of the second division with Doncaster. Barford Tigers and Brooklands Halliday scored twice for St Albans.

Rendle and Bell still going strong

John Goodbody watches two experienced British fighters win bronze medals in Paris

MORE than a decade spent at the top of British women's judo is not necessarily a passport to fame and fortune. Sharon Rendle and Diane Bell may have won Olympic gold medals in 1988, but few people have heard of them because theirs was only a demonstration sport in Seoul.

That could change now that women's judo has attained full Olympic status and, at the Tournoi de Paris over the weekend, the pair continued their build-up towards Atlanta next year by both finishing third.

Bell, 31, finished first in the tournament in 1981 and Rendle, 28, has been competing internationally since 1983. The pair train together and regularly spend a fortnight working at Bell's house in

Crawbrook, Tyne and Wear. Then, after a week's break for individual preparation, Bell travels to Rendle's home in Grimsby for another two weeks' training.

They practise throws, do weight-training, run together and discuss strategy. Rendle says: "We complement each other. The arrangement suits; now we are getting older, we do less quantity but more quality work."

"I have a bee in the bonnet about the Olympics. I'm going to win and then live happily ever after. I owe it to everyone who has helped."

But first she must negotiate

the European championships in Birmingham, in May, when she has to earn the featherweight selection ahead of Debbie Allan, who was third last year but yesterday, fighting on the adjoining mat, was clearly beaten for the other bronze medal.

Yesterday, Rendle held down Miria Campitelli, of Italy, who had earlier defeated Allan on a decision. Rendle was fuming afterwards for not getting further in the competition after being frustrated by the obstructive griping of Almudena Muñoz, of Spain. Bell's bronze medal in the lightweight on Saturday was

the result of her experienced persistence and the addition of new techniques to her established repertoire. She said: "It is important to get fresh moves as you get older. Otherwise people get used to your style."

Although she had been dumped by Zuluea Beltran, of Cuba, Bell won her repechage bout against Mag Kazenove, of France.

Ryan Birch and Rowena Sweatman, the engaged couple from Manchester who won European titles last year, both lost in the first round. Then, in the light-middleweight repechage, Birch had a brawling, close contest with Johan Laats, of Belgium. The Briton had emerged on top when they met in the 1994 European final. This time, Laats got the decision.

Badminton heading in wrong direction

By RICHARD EATON

BADMINTON has long laboured in the wake of tennis, but events at the English national championships in Norwich on Saturday night suggest it may not, after all, be far behind.

In an incident reminiscent of those which led to Jim Pierce being barred from tennis tournaments featuring his daughter, Mary, the father of England's leading women's singles player, Joanne Muggeridge, is alleged to have bullied Tom John, a leading coach.

John coached Nicola Beck and Joanne Davies, who beat the second seeded Muggeridge and Gillian Gowers. John sometimes practises with and helps Muggeridge in singles but the enthusiastic way in which he supported the winners may have provoked the incident.

John said: "If he didn't like the way I was cheering he could have said so during the match. But no one expected what he did. He threatened to beat me up and bullied me. I know him quite well. I wasn't hurt but I was amazed." Vic

Muggeridge denied there had been any assault. "As we walked we just touched one another," he said. "It might have looked like a head-butt but it wasn't. If I wanted to hit Tom, I would have picked my moment. But why would I want to anyway?"

John is making no formal complaint about the incident, but complaints were made about Vic Muggeridge over an incident at the Welsh Open two years ago, when he was accused of verbally abusing an England coach, Karen Chapman.

At the time, the Badminton Association of England wrote to him warning that such allegations, if true, could result in him being banned. The association is considering what action to take following the latest incident.

Champion Hall is latest upset victim

ANDERS NIELSEN caused the biggest upset of a Bell Cablemedia English national badminton championships that was already full of surprises by overcoming Darren Hall, the top-seeded former European champion, 15-12, 6-15, 15-8 in the final at Norwich yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Nielsen, the No 2 seed, thus prevented Hall, the holder, from extending to eight his record of national men's singles titles and may have ended the 29-year-old's ambition of winning ten before he retires.

The second seed also won the women's singles. Julia Mann, who earlier had taken the British Grand Slam title in Belfast and reached the final of the Scottish Open, continued her good form by winning emphatically, 11-2, 11-4, against Alison Humby, the conqueror of Joanne Muggeridge, the No 1 seed.

Clarke misses training

RUGBY UNION: Ben Clarke, the Bath back-row forward, was unable to train with England yesterday in preparation for the five nations' championship match with Wales in Cardiff on Saturday (David Hands writes). Clarke, who turned his left ankle playing against France, is confident that he will be ready for England's private training run in Bath on Wednesday and Thursday. Wales, whose squad trains at the Arms Park tonight, are concerned over Mike Hall. The Cardiff centre has a cracked rib but the selectors are prepared to give him most of this week in which to recover. Mark Taylor, of Pontypool, stands by.

Kenyan improves record

ATHLETICS: Moses Kiptanui, right, from Kenya, broke his own world 3,000 metres indoor record when he ran seven minutes 35.15 seconds at the Ghent international meeting yesterday. Kiptanui, who also holds the world 3,000 metres steeplechase best, trimmed 2.16 seconds off his previous best. "This is one of the fastest tracks I've ever run on," Kiptanui said.



Ferreira on way back

TENNIS: Wayne Ferreira stands just one match away from breaking back into the top ten after reaching the final of the Dubai Open (Alix Ramsay writes). His run to the final was reasonably simple until he encountered Javier Sánchez in the semi-finals, but he won 5-7, 6-1, 6-4. Ferreira will play Andre Gaudenzi, of Italy, in the final. Gaudenzi battled to a 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory over Petr Korda, the No 6 seed.

Panthers top hectic week

ICE HOCKEY: At the end of a busy week, playing their third game in five days, Nottingham Panthers showed the value of having a large squad. Even without Rick Brebant, they beat Humberston Hawks 8-4 to maintain their position at the top of the British League premier division. Sheffield Steelers beat Durham Wasps and Cardiff Devils beat Basingstoke Beavers to stay in second and third places.

Wiltshire face Cumbria

BOWLS: Wiltshire, the 1984 champions, and Cumbria, winners three years ago, will meet in the final of the Manchester Unity Liberty Trophy at Melton Mowbray on April 9. Both had convincing victories on Saturday — Wiltshire 137-117 over Buckinghamshire and Cumbria, with their core of England players, 125-99 against Norfolk. The world championships start at Preston today.

Boone beats favourite

RACKETS: Willie Boone, right, the former world champion, won the Lacoste British Open championship, defeating Neil Smith, the favourite, 17-14, 16-15, 15-3, in a compelling final. Boone, 44, is one of the fittest players in the game and although he started slowly — trailing 6-14 — his form was superior to that of Smith, who is recovering from an eye injury.



Slough make progress

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: Slough, the AEWHA Cup holders, booked their passage into the fifth round with a 3-1 victory over Sutton Coldfield yesterday. The result completed a satisfying weekend for the Berkshire club, which maintained its three-point lead over Ipswich at the top of the premier division after its captain, Lesley Hobley, scored the only goal of the game against Hightown on Saturday.

Sharks show teeth

BASKETBALL: Sheffield Sharks, four days after being upset by Birmingham Bullets in the first leg of the National Cup semi-final, won a difficult Budweiser League match against Worthing Bears on Saturday. A 16-point advantage had been cut to three by the Bears before the Sharks went away to gain an 84-73 victory that keeps them 12 points clear at the head of the table.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°F/°C)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	40 100	fair varied	fair	cloud	2 9/2
	(Still plenty of good skiing, some icy patches)				
Obergurgl	55 130	good varied	good	sun	1 9/2
	(Excellent piste skiing, resort quiet and no queues)				
Schladming	40 90	good	fair	fair	5 5/2
	(Plenty of good skiing on upper slopes)				
Soi	35 55	good	fair	fine	2 9/2
	(Still good but lowest pistes wearing thin in places)				
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	150 360	good powder	good	sun	0 12/2
	(Excellent skiing, yet more fresh snow)				
Chamonix	70 240	good powder	good	fair	2 11/2
	(Superb skiing conditions, powder everywhere)				
Tignes	195 250	good powder	good	fine	2 12/2
	(Superb skiing conditions everywhere)				
Val d'Isère	180 330	good varied	good	sun	0 12/2
	(Great powder skiing, particularly on north slopes)				
ITALY					
Cervinia	80 250	good varied	good	fine	6 11/2
	(Great skiing in warm sunshine, all lifts open)				
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	110 345	good powder	fair	fine	4 11/2
	(Dusting of fresh snow at all altitudes)				
Kitzers	65 175	good powder	good	fair	4 11/2
	(Good skiing but pistes starting to harden)				
Zermatt	75 305	good varied	good	sun	2 9/2
	(Pistes generally excellent, blue skies, no crowds)				

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

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Crewe's home-grown crop serves up some big-city blues



Gradi: nurturing talent

The balance was just the way Dario Gradi likes it: high rollers coming to hick town, wallets open and noses high, and leaving 90 minutes later minus Rolex, credit cards and cash. All in a day's mugging for the Fagin of the lower leagues and his posse of pickpockets. "Their team might have cost more," the manager of Crewe Alexandra said with that half-smile that precedes a slice of home truth. "Ours is probably worth more."

To be fair, his opposite number, Barry Fry, agreed wholeheartedly. He would not, he said in his best Portobello Road manner, give eight quid the pair for Francis and Otto, his recent £800,000 signings. Neither was he inclined to up the bidding for the rest of his team. "Slow, lethargic, awful, a sham-bles," he muttered.

On this showing, Crewe are by far the better bet for promotion from the second division of the Endleigh Insurance League. After a 5-0 thrashing by Birmingham City earlier in the season, they have added the long ball to their repertoire of short passes, and they used it to good effect against their tormentors, not by hoofing it up as Birmingham did to the head of the 6ft 7in Francis, but by measuring long passes into the spaces either side of or between the two City centre backs, who were constantly caught flat-footed by the intelligent diagonal running of Clarkson and Murphy. Crewe's goalkeepers, Crewe had the game well under control until Birmingham scored a minute from time, and yet, as Gradi pointed out, what hope have Crewe in the long run when their average gate is about the same size



Andrew Longmore on a 2-1 victory over Birmingham City that confirmed the standing of a renowned football academy

as Birmingham's playing staff. "In five years, they should push away from us," he said, "but in five months, who knows?"

The programme was full of sideswipes at the apathy of the Crewe public, which at least responded with the best gate of the season at Little Gresty Road. But the prospect of Crewe reaching the top two divisions for the first time should stop every manager in the league from moaning. Not that long ago, Crewe were so used to applying for re-election, they once asked the Football League for a five-year exemption to save on

postage. If Crewe can do it, anyone can.

Crewe's progress has been based on a simple formula: find some children, give them a football and teach them how to play. So simple, one wonders why more clubs have not tried it. The different phases of development were there for all to see on Saturday, the maturity of Danny Murphy, 17, being matched by the scamping skill of 14 under-12s from the Crewe School of Excellence during the interval. Everyone lives within an hour's radius of the ground, and any one could be another David Platt or

Rob Jones, the next mouthful for a club forever perched on the breadline.

While clubs like Birmingham can afford to buy their way out of trouble, Crewe breed their survival. Murphy — English, not Irish, despite the name — came to the club at 13, relatively late, but Gradi describes him as a footballer, not as a striker or midfielder player, with a head beyond his years and a good pedigree. "He was 30 when he was 17, quite happy to tell older players where they went wrong," Gradi said. "I've no idea what he's worth now, but I wouldn't sell him for £800,000."

Bigger clubs are already eyeing him, and what they saw against Birmingham will only sharpen their senses. Murphy, crew cut and busy, time and again found space where there should have been

none behind Clarkson. With a little more assurance, he could have added to his decisive goal just after the hour, a well-struck free kick which put Crewe 2-0 ahead — Clarkson had cracked in the first from another free kick — and earned him the man-of-the-match award.

My own choice was a boy barely ten, his legs sticking out of his shorts like drainpipes, whose half-time repertoire included an impressive backheel and an exquisite shimmy. What Fry could have done with a halfporth worth of such flair in his collection of expensively minted forgeries.

GREWES: ALEXANDRA (4-4-2): Gradi — M. Body, S. Scahill, B. Barr, S. Smith — F. Tenny, N. Lenton, G. Whalley, P. Clarkson — D. Adebola (sub: S. Garvey, 20min), J. Murphy. BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): Bennett — G. Poole, D. Bennett, L. Dash, C. Wright — L. Donohue, G. Cooper (sub: P. Shearer, 45), M. Ward, R. Coo (sub: J. Donohue, 45) — K. Francis, P. Taylor. Referee: J. Winter.

Supporters contribute to black day for Horton



Michael Henderson on a 3-0 derby victory for Manchester United that added to their neighbours' troubles

Life is slow dying when you are a Manchester City follower. In the past 15 years they have beaten United only once, that freakish 5-1 win in October 1989, when the United supporters angrily demanded the head of Alex Ferguson. That seems ages ago now, like the ancient Pharaohs, and desolation lies before City as an Egyptian plume.

By the end of this match the disunity at Maine Road could not have been displayed more graphically. Thousands of home supporters left early, exasperated by their latest numbing experience. Hundreds more sang the disgusting song about the 1988 Munich air crash that one had hoped never to hear again. All round the ground, most notably in the main stand, there were fist fights as frustration spilt over into random violence. It was a sordid revelation of unfulfilled hopes and sad little lives.

United won pulling up, as it were. With better finishing, and greater urgency, they could have doubled their scoring. After enduring all that City could throw at them in the first half, which was not a lot in terms of chances created, they ran in three second-half goals at their leisure, and neither Hughes nor Keane was playing. Even without their precious Frenchman, they can still get their kicks.

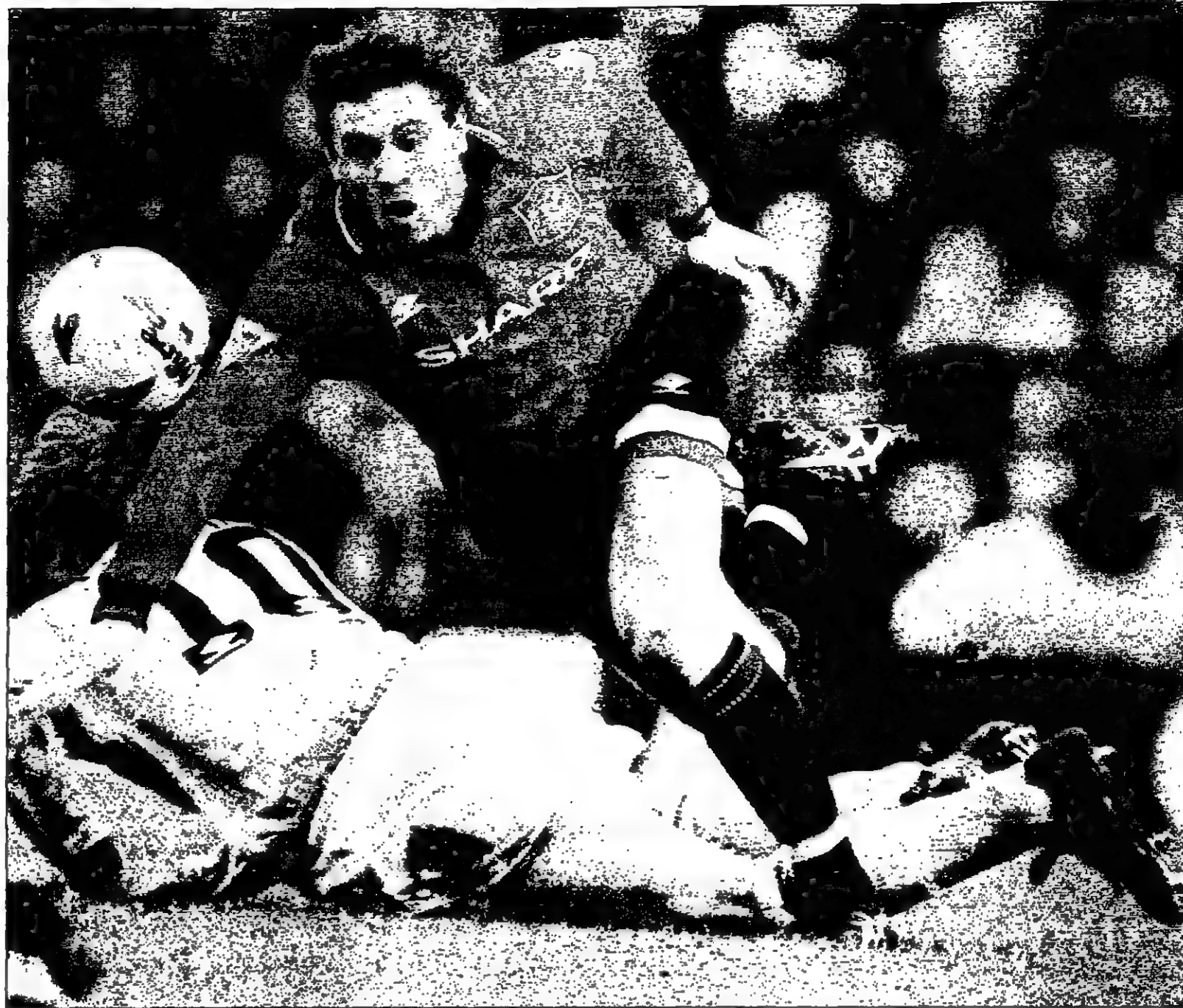
There are times when one wonders what goes through

the minds of some supporters. In the official match programme — not one of those infantile fanzines — City's "supporters' representative", who attends board meetings for some reason, referred to "Old Trafford". He was trying, in a strained way, to be funny and he got a pretty emphatic response. If that is the sort of person the supporters want to represent their interests, they deserve a few more tonkings.

Having won just one of their last 11 league matches, tonkings they will assuredly get. It is hard to see what more Brian Horton can do. The City manager is an honest enough man, but he is manifestly out of his depth. For his own sake, and the team's, the sooner he goes the better.

Like all beleaguered managers, he has begun to argue with the conviction of a man who knows he is wrong. He was not sure, for instance, that his team had got "a pasting". The main difference, he felt, was that "we gave the ball away all the time and they didn't". It is a fairly big difference.

For all City's failings, not least in defence, where David Brightwell makes a good centre half at left back, United looked true champions. On a heavy pitch that was passed fit an hour and a half before the kick-off, they preferred to let the ball do the work. City had spent all passion long before the second goal and their players looked very tired at the



Kanchelskis, the United winger, emerges with the ball despite the attentions of Flitcroft, of City, during the Manchester derby

end. Other than a first-half shot from Paul Walsh, struck from outside the area, Schmeichel was tested only by the jeering of disappointed supporters.

That was the measure of United's defending, not just across the back, where Pallister was outstanding, but further forward, where McClair had an industrious and typically selfless match. Giggles twinkled once more and

Cole maintained his bedding-down process with one goal and a foot in another.

Once gave United the lead with a shot that Summerbee deflected beyond Dible. The goalkeeper was fooled then but he was more culpable when Kanchelskis beat him at the near post in the 75th minute. By that stage, Disgusted of Fallowfield had decided enough was enough and was on his way home. Cole's

simple sidefoot three minutes later, after McClair had released Giggles, put the tin lid on it.

How Horton must envy Ferguson. United have put eight goals past City this season without reply and can afford to play an 18-year-old, Philip Neville, at left back just for the experience. They whisked him off just after half-time, sending on Scholes to give a different focus to the

attack, and he did not disappoint them. While he was on the field, Neville looked a marvellous prospect. Here is yet another young United player who feels comfortable with the ball.

City's disaffection was reflected in Philip Don's notebook. Röslér was booked for dissent, Beagrie and Quinn for poor challenges. Now they must go to Newcastle for an awkward fifth-round FA Cup

tie and prepare for a beastly second round. Someone will be drawn into the relegation scrap and they are not a good enough side to be sure it will not be them.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A. Dible — N. Summerbee, K. Cule, A. Kermeghan, D. Brightwell — M. Gaudino, I. Brightwell, G. Flitcroft, P. Beagrie (sub: N. Quinn, 60min) — P. Walsh, U. Röslér. MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): P. Schmeichel — D. Irwin, S. Bruce, G. Pallister, P. Neville (sub: P. Scholes, 55) — S. McClair, P. Ince, L. Sharpe — A. Kanchelskis (sub: D. May, 80), A. Cole, R. Giggles. Referee: P. Don.

Collymore misses other half of act

Newcastle United.....2
Nottingham Forest.....1

BY ALYSON RUDD

THEY are classy, inventive, capable of stirring the soul and they are also-rans. Neither Newcastle United nor Nottingham Forest are likely to prick the North West bubble this season. Their FA Carling Premiership encounter on Saturday was all about striving for third place and it felt about right. Good enough to strut their stuff in Europe, but not as champions.

Both clubs do, on occasions, look like championship material but, while their style and managerial nous cannot be faulted, they lack the ability to maintain their momentum when key players are missing. Indeed, the suspended Bryan Roy should not be too surprised if he receives a Valentine card from Stan Collymore tomorrow, for Stan is only half the man without him.

Collymore had to play as a lone striker and found himself the target of the linesman's offside flag more often than his team-mates' passes. Without Roy, Forest lack a player who can dazzle and unsettle defenders and set up their leading goalscorer.

Eighty-eight minutes had elapsed before Collymore exhibited one of those energy surges he is famed for. He shrugged off Howey and powered goalwards with only Srinke to beat. Unfortunately for Collymore, the Newcastle goalkeeper was able to stretch out and claw the ball from under the Forest striker's feet.

Newcastle are blessed with far more creative depth in their squad, but not so blessed that a bout of flu has had no effect on their performances. Their recent 3-0 defeat at

Full results and league tablesPage 28

Liverpool gain relief as Scales gets even

Liverpool1
Queens Park Rangers1

BY PETER BALL

THESE are eventful times for the Liverpool central defenders. Phil Babb and Neil Ruddock were sent off in their two previous games, and on Saturday, John Scales took centre stage, popping up unexpectedly to score and rescue an FA Carling Premiership point from a dire performance at Anfield.

What Scales was doing in the Queens Park Rangers penalty area to meet Ian Rush's low cross was another matter. "I don't know what he was doing up there, but I'm glad he was," a relieved Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. Scales rushed off to a party before he could be asked for his views.

For much of the game it

looked as if the whole Liverpool team was thinking about celebrating Steve McManaman's 23rd birthday. They have gone off the ball at the wrong time. A return of five goals in their last nine matches tells its own story.

Fowler is a shadow of the electrifying goalscorer of autumn and early winter. Then, McManaman was the most thrilling sight in football, beating to score and rescue an FA Carling Premiership point from a dire performance at Anfield.

With Barnes looking heavy and short of fitness after his lay-off — after one spell of involvement he was to be seen struggling to get his breath back on the halfway line — the service to the forwards lacks its former incisiveness. For 45 minutes on Saturday, Liverpool were awful.

On Tuesday, against Burnley, Evans had complained that his side had passed the ball without purpose. This was worse. "The difference today was they didn't pass it, full stop," he said.

Many on Merseyside blame the system of three centre backs. Evans insists that the same system has served them successfully so far, but with Scales the worst culprit, and Babb and Ruddock not far behind, they looked out of sorts with themselves, giving the ball away consistently and failing to come to terms with the power and movement of Ferdinand and the exciting young Gallen. Once Fowler's partner in the England youth team.

Gallen's goal, after only six minutes, told the story of the first half in a nutshell. McManaman was trapped on the touchline and gave the ball away; Barker hit a precise pass forward, and the central defence parted obligingly to leave Gallen space to go on and hit a shot which went through James's hands and under his body.

The interval changed things. Evans had words and Liverpool at last looked more like their usual selves, putting

Rangers under sustained pressure. A change to a flat back four helped, but Rangers, too, lost some of their shape. "I thought we defended too deep," Barker said.

For a time, with Maddix at the heart, they defended well enough, and it took a foul by Ruddock, who was booked, and a fine save by James to deny Ferdinand before Walters released Rush and Scales arrived to turn his cross home. Rangers held on comfortably for their point, beating a path with their neat, composed football for Crystal Palace and Wimbledon — Liverpool's next opponents — to tread this week with some confidence.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — J. Scales, N. Ruddock, P. Babb — R. Jones, S. McManaman, M. Thomas (sub: J. Rodon, 60min), J. Barnes, S. I. O'Brien (sub: M. Walters, 55) — R. Fowler, I. Rush. QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A. Roberts — D. Bardsley, D. Maddix, A. McDonald, C. Wilson — A. Ince, I. Parkinson, K. Gallen. Referee: D. Gillingham.

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Draw cannot hide Chelsea's decline

Chelsea1
Tottenham Hotspur1

BY KERRY PIKE

NO TROUBLE off the field, a desperately needed point on it, and Chelsea staff and supporters were in bullish mood on Saturday. It says much for the club's predicament that they could be so easily pleased.

When Dennis Wise popped up ten minutes from time with the equaliser that deprived Tottenham of a deserved victory, he was merely fanning the smokescreen created by the behaviour of the lunatic fringe among their followers four days earlier. The reality is that Chelsea are a mediocre side in miserable form, and that complacency could all too easily be coupled with relegation in May.

So what has happened to the Glenn Hoddle revolution? A player who, in his prime, was the epitome of football purity, who as a manager preaches the virtues of the beautiful game, was reduced here to praising his side's spirit. Fair enough, in that Chelsea, outplayed for long periods, ran themselves into the heavy Stamford Bridge ground to scratch a draw from a match that should have been put beyond them with an hour gone. But where was the style, the adventure, the composure? Like diamond formations, discarded in the name of pragmatism.

Despite that, Chelsea have now gone ten matches without an FA Carling Premiership victory, and it is nearly four

months since their last home win in the league, a run that has seen them slip steadily down the table so that they now hover just three points above the relegation zone.

Commitment apart, Chelsea were lacking in all areas of the field. Their powers of organisation, too, were in marked contrast to a Tottenham team getting better week by week. Hoddle had made a point of warning Chelsea about Tottenham's near-post corner routine. He could only look on aghast when Anderson's cross found Sheringham in glorious isolation to give Tottenham a ninth-minute lead.

When, with Chelsea chasing the game late in the second half, Clarke crossed to the far post as his three targets made identical runs to the opposite side of the area, Hoddle had had enough, and his decision to step off the substitutes' bench paid dividends when his left centre enabled Wise to glance a header past Walker and in off a post.

However, had Popescu not spurred the gift chance presented by Klinsmann's selfishness, or had Anderson's cross-shot not rebounded to safety off the foot of a post, Wise's goal would have had no more than consolation value. Chelsea are in some disarray. They cannot say they have not been warned.

CHelsea (4-3-1-2): D. Clarke — S. Clarke, D. Lee, F. Sinclair, S. Minto — D. Popescu (sub: S. Hoddle, 67min), S. Newton, D. Wise, G. Peacock (sub: P. Furlong, 48) — M. Stan, J. Spencer. Tottenham Hotspur (4-3-1-2): Walker — S. Campbell, C. Caldwell, G. Macburt, J. Edinburg — D. Anderson, G. Popescu, D. Howells — N. Barnaby — E. Sheringham, J. Nkinang. Referee: J. Dutton.

Loftus Road could partially be explained away by the heavy clouds suffered by Fox, Peacock and Srinke and the suspensions of Beresford and Howey.

While Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, has been more than vindicated for his faith in Gillespie, the obsession among the Toon Army after the game as to whether Cole had scored one of Manchester United's goals underlines the fact that Newcastle still need a centre forward with more steel than Kinson.

True champions do not let such a problem end in defeat. Indeed, Manchester United are thriving without the two players many felt were the linchpin of their success: Hughes and Cantona. It is probably not a coincidence that Gillespie has returned to form, Cantona's exile giving him the opportunity to become the fulcrum instead of just the frills.

Gillespie has that potential, too. He will be 20 on Saturday but already oozes the confidence of a seasoned professional and he had a hand in both goals. After 48 minutes, he laid the ball off to Hoddle and the Swiss international crossed for Fox to head Newcastle ahead. Then, with 16 minutes left, Gillespie set up Robert Lee for their second.

Forest scored a minute later. Jason Lee heading in Lytle's cross from the right. It was too late to save a point but served as a reminder that at 6ft 2in, Collymore does surprisingly little of note with his head.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Srinke — M. Hodge, D. Peacock, S. Howey, J. Bousfield — K. Gillespie (sub: P. Burslow, 75min), B. Vinton, P. Lee, R. Fox — P. Beardsley, P. Kinson. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1): M. Crossley — D. Lytle, C. Cooper, D. Twiss, A. Flaurin — S. Stone, S. Gerrard, D. Phillips, A. Hoggard (sub: J. Lee, 73), J. Woon — S. Collymore, J. Nkinang. Referee: K. Morton.

Palace pups prove soft touch in hard school

Crystal Palace0
Coventry City2

BY PAT GIBSON

COVENTRY City made no bones about it. Their objective was to drag Crystal Palace into the dogfight at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, where five points separate a pack of eight clubs covering about the grounded Leicester City and Ipswich Town.

Survival is the name of the game, and Coventry, who have clung tenaciously to their place in the top division for 28 years, knew far more about it than Palace's young pups.

Palace are going to have to grow up quickly if they are to stay for more than one season.

Alan Smith, the Palace manager, admitted as much when he said: "My lads think you survive in the Premiership by going out and playing football all the time. Their first goal was a boot down the middle, we let it bounce, and it was in the back of our net. If that's what keeps you in the division for 28 years, I'd have some of it, please."

The fact that the 75th-minute goal came seconds after Palace had been denied a penalty — Borrowes appearing to pull back Dowie as he moved on to Preece's flick — incensed the home supporters, but Smith had no complaints. "From where I was sitting, I

didn't think it was a penalty in a month of Sundays," he said. "Even if it was, I didn't see what all the song and dance was about. It was not given and while people were running about complaining to the linesman, they were scoring the goal."

It was a perfect example of Palace's inactivity in the mud and rain of a filthy south London afternoon as Ogriovic hoofed the ball 75 yards, Shaw and Coleman failed to clear, and Cobi Jones planted the ball past Martyn.

That goal put Coventry on the way to their first win in 12 Premiership games, and eased the pressure on their manager, Phil Neal, who had the brainwave of playing Jones, the United States winger, without an appear-

ance this year, as a striker. "I just felt it was something a little bit different," he said. "Cobi has good pace, he was always threatening, and he gave us a refreshing look."

Dublin's clinical 85th-minute finish after Ndlovu had dispossessed Patterson simply added to Palace's depression at the start of a momentous week in which they visit Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final and Watford in the fifth round of the FA Cup.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N. Minton — D. Patterson, H. Shaw, C. Coleman, D. Gordon — G. Southgate, R. Bowry (sub: D. Preece, 70min), D. Preece, G. Nisbet — J. Dowie, J. Salski. COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogriovic — A. Patterson, S. Preece, B. Borrowes, S. Morgan — S. Flynn (sub: J. Darby, 65), M. Marsh, D. Preece, P. Ndlovu — D. Dallas, C. Jones. Referee: M. Bowerman.

20/11/1995

In a pub basement, Rachel Campbell Johnston has a stab at the traditionally male preserve of boxing



"Boxing is the ultimate contact sport — a physical game of chess," the trainer, Pauline Dickson, tells Rachel Campbell Johnston, above. It is also the best all-round workout that you can get

Most people have the same opinion of women's pugilism as Dr. Johnson had of women's preaching: "like a dog walking on his hinder legs... not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all".

I was certainly surprised to find myself wending my way through Streatham one evening on the way to Casey's gym. "It's one of the only truly mixed boxing gyms in Britain," trainer Pauline Dickson, the General Secretary of the Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF) told me. "Don't expect aerobics and dainty Lycra leotards." Descending into the basement of a pub, I was more concerned about finding myself "foxy boxing", engaging in topless bouts in a booby backroom.

Instead, I found a long, low-ceilinged gym, papered with "big fight" posters, rank with the smell of sweat and leather. Above the throb of the hardcore techno I could hear the

whine of resin-ed boots on canvas, the pounding of punchbags, the rattle of the brisk rap of leather skipping ropes.

Dave Cranston, a future middleweight champion, was sparring in a central ring. Solomon, a young South Londoner, was doing his "star jumps", springing upwards from a crouching position to spreadeagle himself in the air. Every muscle in a honed torso glistened, reflected in a myriad of wall mirrors.

I, and my fellow first-time boxer, 19-year-old Laura Gascoigne, realised we had a long way to go as Pauline took us through an exhaustive warm-up routine. Then we were ready to learn the boxer's stance: feet always hip-width apart, knee joints relaxed, weight thrown forwards, chin

tucked behind the shoulder.

The power of a good punch comes from the ground, I was told. A good boxer can hit as crisply on the retreat as on the attack.

A couple of basic strokes, the quick left jab and the right cross, put together in various combinations, with some weaving and bobbing in between, and we were ready for shadow boxing, a pastime I had only previously witnessed among inebriated Glaswegians weaving home after closing hours.

But it was the sparring which was the real test. As a young man my father boxed

for England, and ever afterwards has allayed his nostalgia by teaching his daughters to "pack a good punch". I was curious to test my childhood skill. Casey McCullum, the gym owner, mummified my hands in bandages and laced me into my gloves. "Go slow at first," Pauline advised, "a

three-minute-round can seem like a long time".

Sandra Williams, an accountancy student whose gentle manner belied the dedicated pugilist within, paused to watch. "She's got pit-bull blood in her," I had been told. Myself, I felt more like a Pekingese going for the

postman. The smiling Casey scarcely bothered to brush off my blows. "Keep your fists up... double left jab... now a right... stop retreating. Punch!"

Floating like an anchor and stinging like a moth, I soon decided I wasn't one of the new breed of warrior women. And it wasn't long before I was backpedalling — fast — with my breath burning in my throat.

But no sooner had I staggered from the canvas, than Pauline had me smothering the remains of my strength in a punchbag. Then back into the ring to work with "pads" — huge mittens held out on the

trainer's hands. Even then, there was still skipping and a final long stretching session to go before the 90 minutes were up.

With Pauline's dedication it is little wonder that she has led such a successful assault on this traditionally male preserve. The WIBF was started in 1993 to legislate for women in the sport, to allow them not just to train but to fight competitively. A year ago there were just 70 women on its register; already there are over twice as many.

"Boxing is the ultimate contact sport — a physical game of chess," Pauline explained. "Most people only feel mentally and physically on edge when they take up expensive sports such as parachuting or motor racing. Here you can get the same adrenalin rush

for only £3 a session."

Though the WIBF looks carefully at the medical implications of women boxing, Pauline shrugged off my questions about health. "I'm a bleeder," she informed me nonchalantly. "But I wouldn't mind if my nose was broken. If a man didn't like me just because of that then he wouldn't be the sort of man I wanted anyway."

"And it's a myth about getting cancer if you're hit in the breasts. I've only ever been bruised there once, and that was kick boxing. Besides, it's a waste of energy to punch a woman in the chest. You're hardly likely to knock her out like that."

Personally, I would be too vain and too squeamish to fight competitively. But I could well believe Pauline when she told me that a boxer's training was the best all-round workout you can get. I would go to Casey's again for that — and of course for the pleasure of admiring Solomon's gleaming abdominal "six pack".

Velvety hands in iron gloves



FACT FILE

- Contact the Amateur Boxing Association (0181-778 0251) for a list of clubs in your area. Anyone can train at a boxing gym.
- To fight competitively, you must be male, aged 11 to 35 and have an ABA licence, for which you need to pass a medical.
- Women should send a SAE to Pauline Dickson, Women's International Boxing Federation, UK, 1, Fayland Avenue, Streatham, London SW16 or call 0181-769 0645.

When friends can come to blows

Ever wondered what it is like to go into a ring against a man who knows what he is doing?

On the face of it, Tony Breen and I ought to be well matched: he is 32, I am 30. He weighs a shade over 12's stone; I am ten pounds heavier. A couple of Cruiserweights who ought to be middleweights. We are both about 5 feet 10 inches tall, and both reasonably fit.

The difference is, Tony Breen, now a businessman, used to box professionally, while I am a journalist who, until I met up with Tony, had never put on a glove. So Tony knows what he is doing, and I haven't got a clue.

We meet at a small gym above a pub in Brixton, South

London. Boxing is a primitive business, and the places where the work is done reflect this. The room seems to have been designed for the benefit of black and white photography: floods in, posters peel, the heavy bag swings on its cable, a mound of gloves — and the ring.

Tony starts off with some skipping, each foot coming off the floor just the thickness of the rope. I try. I can skip. I discover, but only for about six great exhausting leaps.

Now, he shows me the punches against the bag. Left jab — "This is not used to any bad intent; it's to get your opponent up for bigger punches, create openings, unbalance him, keep him away from you," says Tony. Right cross — "A knock-out punch, also the nosebreaker because it hits you full in the face." Left hook, right hook — "Off the jab, side of the face." Left uppercut, right uppercut. I do a couple. "They look good on the bag, but they're the most dangerous because they have the furthest to travel. Leave you exposed."

Tony does his own warm up. He puts thunderous blows into the bag, leather on leather, smack, smack, smack. I am aware that this sack hanging from the ceiling may not be the only punchbag in the room, and, in my stomach, I

begin to feel something very close to fear. "Don't worry," pants Tony, snapping another vicious left hook into the bag. "I won't go taking any liberties with you."

You wouldn't expect someone who had just learnt the moves of chess to give a competent club player even a decent game, would you? Any fool can hit someone, the trick is to do it when, first, they know it's coming and, secondly, they are trying to hit you at the same time. There may only be six punches in boxing, but being a good boxer, being a bit tasty, is measured in how you master the 600 ways to avoid and then deliver these six punches.

Mind you, for the first three rounds, I only throw one: the left jab. This is because, to

throw the big right hand as Lennox Lewis found out, is to leave yourself open to pain. So, I'm shuffling across the canvas, chucking out this left jab, and Tony is swaying out of the way. Once in a while, he hits me round the head. He hits me pretty much whenever he wants to, and my head is ringing. This is shocking because, despite the helmet I wear initially, despite the fact he's pulling his punches, despite the falsity of the situation, it hurts, physically and psychologically.

After three rounds, Tony gives me some advice. "You're throwing too many punches. Most of them are out of range, and you're not varying it enough." I try to calm down and pick a moment for the big right. I get it in once, and

mine missed; almost all of his hit.

Losing your temper if someone hits you is natural. Walking away if someone hits you is natural. Hitting them back, without temper, is not natural. That is what boxers have to be trained to do.

"Novice fighters, they see a punch coming, they shut their eyes, they turn their head away. You have to short circuit that. Because by the time you've opened your eyes to see if there's another one coming, there is another one coming, and another one, and pretty soon you've had it. A good fighter can be taking a terrible battering, and still he's watching," says Tony. That is the hard part.

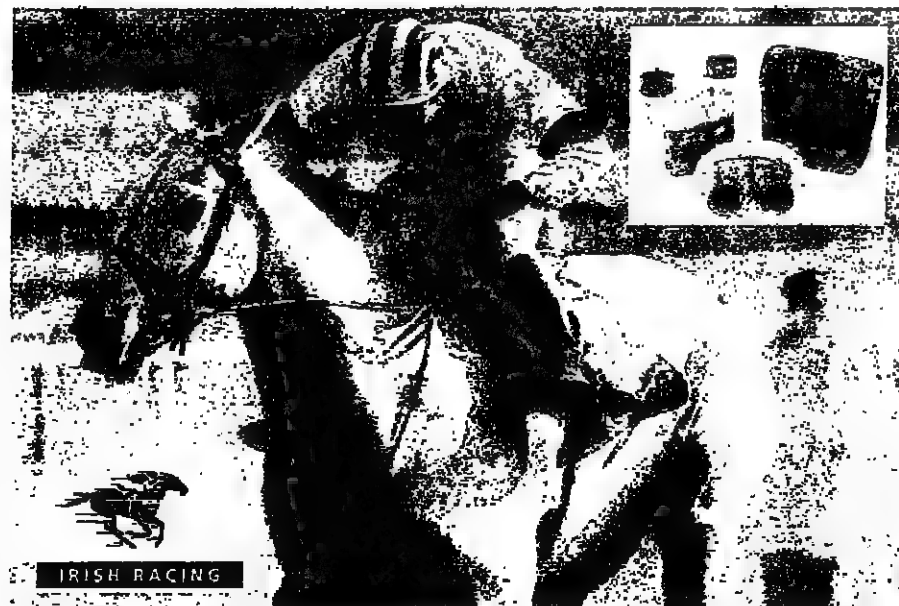
ROBERT CRAMPTON



Robert Crampton: he chose to enter the ring with a former professional boxer

THE TIMES

Win a VIP trip to the Irish Grand National



The Jameson Irish Grand National is one of Europe's greatest horseracing days and today The Times in association with The 1994 Official Cheltenham Festival Guide offers readers the chance to experience it by winning a trip which includes the meeting on Monday, April 17, and two more full days of racing.

Organised by the Irish Tourist Board and the Irish Horseracing Authority, the prize includes return flights to Dublin for two people with Aer Lingus, accommodation in a premium Dublin hotel with full Irish breakfast and a self-drive hire car. The winner and a companion will also be admitted to the reserved enclosure at Fairyhouse for each day of the Easter Festival, from April 17-19, including a race card each day.

For your chance to win simply answer the two questions.

1. What is the distance of the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
2. Which Irish jockey won the Ritz Club trophy in 1993 and 1994?

Send your answers on a postcard to: The Times/Irish Grand National Competition, 16 Whitefriars Street, London, EC8 2NG. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date of February 24, 1995.

Ten runners up will each receive a pair of superb, advanced Olympus 10 x 24 Poro Prism binoculars. The 1994 Official Cheltenham Festival Guide is on sale for £2.95 at newsagents.



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Brentwood reach point of healthy return

By JOHN GOODBODY

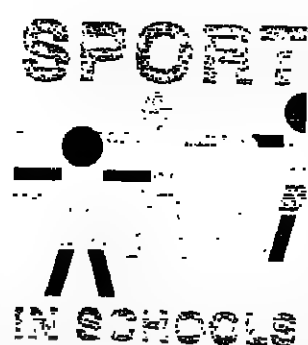
WHY a school regularly achieves success in a particular sport is difficult to analyse. Tradition is always a motivating force, but it can be hard for a school to begin that tradition, especially in the less popular activities.

Frequently, the debt is to the individual teachers, who can inspire pupils with their knowledgeable enthusiasm. A momentum is created and, although the teachers may leave, their influence on the school remains.

Brentwood School, in Essex, is a typical example. It has won the public schools' fencing championships 28 times since 1962. It holds the national schools epee titles in the under-17 and under-15 age groups, and the sabre title in three age groups. It has produced a host of international and national champions.

The school's coaches include Gareth Stafford-Bull, the national under-20 epee coach, Mike Matthews, the national under-20 sabre coach, and Todd Lindsay, a Great Britain junior international.

However, the origins of the school's momentous run lie in the 1950s, when a master, Jeff Featherstone, persuaded the headmaster to begin the Olympic sport and then



SPORT IN SCHOOLS

brought in Professor Steve Boston to teach the boys. Stafford-Bull, a pupil from 1967-74, says the combination of Featherstone's enthusiasm and Boston's expertise

brought Brentwood to prominence. Celebrated early figures included David Acland, the Essex cricketer and an Olympic fencer in 1968.

The honours have increased. Tom Kirby, another former pupil, became the youngest person to represent Britain at the senior world championships in epee in 1994, when he was 18. He was attracted to the sport when he saw a display in 1988.

"I had done loads of sports, but I found the idea of bashing someone with a metal stick quite amusing," he said. "I like individual sports. They tell you a lot about yourself. You cannot rely on anyone else.

They are a bit more like life," Lindsay, the master in charge of fencing at Brentwood, admits that the sport does suffer from its "white breeches" image. However, whenever the fencers have their fitness levels compared to footballers or hockey players, people realise it is not an easy option. People do not realise how tough it is.

Younger pupils have the stimulus of practising with international competitors. The experience filters down from the top. Their reflexes are sharpened and their perceptual knowledge is improved.

David Sach, a sabreur, finished twentieth in the under-

20 world championships last year, although he is only 16. "We do feel we have a responsibility to the younger fencers, so we help out during competitions, just as other boys helped us when we were younger," he said. He is studying for A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics but still hopes to make the Great Britain squad for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year.

"As a fencer, you are expected to do well here," he said. "But it does get a bit embarrassing always walking up in assembly to receive trophies."

Photograph, page 34
Results, page 34

Small talk puts different gloss on large defeat

Last Saturday afternoon, Radio 5 Live filled the air with the sound of Manchester United, Terry Venables, George Graham, Denis Law... and I thought back to a Saturday afternoon 30 years ago involving that same cast.

Chelsea were at Old Trafford; the result was pretty much what you would expect now, and what was expected then.

After the game, the Chelsea players filed into the coach outside the ground, brushing away autograph-hunters: four goals down and it does not matter whether the kids say "Please, Barry," or "Pardon me, sir." The answer is no.

I was on friendly terms with the London club's management, got a lift to the station in the team bus, and sat with them on the 5.45 train to Euston.

McCreadie, who had given away the first goal, sat exuding misery and lit a cigarette. Tommy Docherty, the Chelsea manager and author of *A Friend in Need is a Pain in the Backside* and *Do Unto Others and Run Like Hell*, now turned diplomat: "I'd sooner have a constructive full back who gives away the occasional goal than play a man who belts it out of sight whenever the other team is on the attack," he said. Tambling, whose excellent chance in the 43rd minute skimmed over the crossbar, lit a cigarette also. Venables, the Chelsea captain, was talking about the referee: "I said to him, 'look at that,' and he said, 'I'm sorry, so I said to him, 'don't say I'm sorry, blow up.'"

A Chelsea director lit his cigar. When we started on the soup, conversation lifted fractionally. Two players decided that Herd's goal was offside; as there was general agreement with this, everyone felt better. Then someone opined that not one of the four goals which went past Bonetti could have been saved... which made Bonetti feel better. Silence descended as we waited for the main course. The club secretary, a pompous man who dealt with statistics, said: "We have now lost six matches: 14 goals against, nil for. In fact, if we score, we win." "Or draw," George Graham said. Right, the secretary agreed.

The club doctor's wife

spoke next: "I think Denis Law is fascinating to watch."

The chairman's daughter-in-law added: "Of course points matter, but at the same time this sort of football is an entertainment."

It's Law's hair that is so fascinating, the doctor's wife said. The chairman's son came across to our table and spoke to Docherty. Any injuries, Tom? "The way we played we'll never get any injuries," the manager said, with some disgust.

Don't be downhearted, the chairman's son said, we lost against Swansea and Plymouth in our promotion year, and never forget Sunderland. (In the last away match of 1964, Chelsea had gone to Roker Park and secured crucial victory by the only goal of the match, Harmer converting a corner.)

During the service of cheese and pudding, the trainer started a therapeutic game of cards with three of his team, and most of the

CLEMENT FREUD
Afterthoughts

other players went back to their carriages, leaving the supporting cast in the dining car drinking coffee and brandy.

"Denis Law's hair really fascinates me," the doctor's wife said. "It makes a nice change not having to worry about being at the top of the table," her husband added.

"Our downfall was that when we got the ball, we didn't go forward," the chairman's nephew said.

"It was all over in the fourth minute after Ben's goal," his cousin said. I still had hopes until half-time, his wife said.

That's right, the doctor said: if they had not scored, we could have drawn.

Some time after that I realised the small talk of distant connections of a losing football team makes less than compulsive listening and returned to my carriage.

Determined youngsters revel in mud, glorious mud



Daniel Horner, of Henley Trinity School, in full stride during the Three Counties primary school cross country championships at Henley. Photograph: James Morgan

By TOM CHESHYRE

IN THE nervous moments before the first race at the Three Counties primary schools cross country championships, held at Gillotts School, Henley, on Saturday, parents yelled advice: "If you fall over, get up and carry on — don't worry

about getting muddy. You can do it!"

Although there was a cold and unpleasant drizzle, steady expressions of determination filled the faces of the participants. More than 450 primary school children, from seven to 12, braved terrible conditions to take part in the second

year of the largest event of its kind in Britain.

Despite the name, four counties now participate: Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Last year's races were so successful that schools from Hertfordshire asked to be included.

"What's great about cross country

for children is that all levels of ability can compete," Gordon Davies, race co-ordinator and head of PE at Henley Trinity School, said. "In team sports like football, some can feel as though they are letting the side down — you don't really get that in cross country."

The competition was of a high

standard. Gemma Eggleston, 12, from Gillotts School, who won the girls' year seven race by a minute, represents Britain at school level. "One day I want to win a gold medal for Great Britain in the Olympics," she said.

Results, page 34

Fair opportunity for young stars to rise to the top

By BRIAN BEEL

HEREFORD today stages the first of seven qualifying races in *The Times* Rising Stars series, leading to the £10,000 final at Newbury on March 24.

The purpose of the series, now in its third year, in forging a closer link between point-to-pointing and hunter chasing, has never been more important. While racing between the flags increases in popularity, the decline in National Hunt racing continues. Only by encouraging the best of the young horses to the racetrack proper will the balance be redressed.

Many top steeplechasers have learnt their trade in

GUIDE TO THE TIMES

Hereford Course: Right-hand, square, 1 mile in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 300 yards. Fairly flat with many turns. How to get there: By road: 1/2 mile west of city of A46. By rail: Hereford station (1 mile from course). Admission: Members £15, Tatlers £5, Course £4.	Wetherby Course: Left-hand, oval, 1 mile in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 200 yards. A flat, galloping course with stiff fences. How to get there: By road: East of town off the B1254 (York road), adjacent to A1. By rail: Leeds station (12 miles from course). Buses run to Wetherby. Admission: Members £15, Tatlers £5, Course £2.	Kelso Course: Left-hand, oval, 1/2 mile of 180 yards in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 400 yards. A tight track, with walls and fences, but has a still uphill finish. How to get there: By road: 1/2 mile north of town off A63. By rail: Berwick-Tweed station, 23 miles via 1/2 mile to Kelso. Admission: Members £10, Tatlers £5, Course £2.	Lakeland Course: Right-hand, rectangular, 1 mile in circumference (11 fences), with run-in of 250 yards. A flat track, with walls and fences, but has a still uphill finish. How to get there: By road: 2 miles south-east of city on A6. By rail: Lancaster station (1 mile from course). Admission: Members £11, Tatlers £5, Course £4.
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RISING STARS SERIES

Newbury Course: Left-hand, oval, 1 mile in circumference (11 fences), with run-in of 250 yards. A wide, galloping course with low undulations. One of the fastest tracks in the country, the fences are soft. How to get there: By road: East of town off A46. By rail: Newbury station (1 mile from course). Admission: Members £15, Tatlers £5, Course £2.	Longfield Park Course: Left-hand, rectangular, 1/2 mile in circumference (10 fences), with run-in of 150 yards. A sharp track, with walls and fences, but has a still uphill finish. How to get there: By road: South-east of town on A22. By rail: Longfield station (1/2 mile from course). Admission: Members £15, Tatlers £5, Course £2.	Market Rasen Course: Right-hand, oval, 1 mile in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 150 yards. A sharp track, with walls and fences, but has a still uphill finish. How to get there: By road: 2 miles south of town on B170. By rail: Market Rasen station (1 mile from course). Admission: Members £15, Tatlers £5, Course £2.	Tunworth Course: Right-hand, oval, 1 mile in circumference (9 fences), with run-in of 150 yards. A sharp track, with walls and fences, but has a still uphill finish. How to get there: By road: 2 miles south of town on B170. By rail: Tunworth station (1 mile from course). Admission: Members £15, Tatlers £5, Course £2.
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HEREFORD LINE-UP

GOING: HEAVY

2.30 THE TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE
(Qualifier: amateurs. £1,988. 3m 11 1/2 (12) runners)

1	221F11	CELTIC ABBEY (5) (F.S.) (P. Power) Mr. C. Harding 7-12-7	D. S. Jones	65
2	3P122	ANDRELOT 321P (6) (H. Jones) S. Dwyer 8-12-0	A. Jones	64
3	02254	MY KNOCKOUT 275 (10) (Nichols) D. Nichols 7-12-0	A. Griffiths	64
4	64-355	RUSTY BRIDGE 9P (12) (D. Jones) Mrs. S. Jones 8-12-0	A. Jones	63
5	21122	BRANDY BEAU 25P (6) (S. P. Campbell) Mrs. P. Campbell 8-12-7	A. Wilson	63
6	211-1	RYTHVENCHANNALS 22P (5) (J. Cooper) J. Ward 8-12-7	M. Jackson	63
7	PUPP	IN THE WATER 27P (10) (A. Jones) Mrs. S. Jones 8-12-7	A. Jones	62
8	21-1	LORD OF THE WEST 22P (5) (J. Cooper) Mrs. S. Jones 8-12-7	A. Jones	61
9	P-853	SARACENS BOY 30P (6) (M. Chubb) Mrs. M. Chubb 7-12-7	J. Cobby	61
10	311-12	WOODBURY FAIR 1P (6) (Mrs. M. Chubb) Mrs. M. Chubb 7-12-7	M. Patten	61
11	000P-1	ASPHALTUS 22P (6) (A. Jones) Mrs. S. Jones 8-12-7	M. C. Thomas	61
12	11F2-0	COVERABLE LANE 1P (5) (J. Cooper) Mrs. S. Jones 8-12-7	P. Henry	61

BETTING: 11-4 Favourites: Celtic Abbey, 3-1 Celtic Abbey, 6-1 Lord of the West, 10-1 Brandy Beau, Rusty Bridge, 12-1 Coverable Lane, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CELTIC ABBEY (connections: have Cheltenham Foxhunters in mind) beat Fox Point 4 in an 8-run amateur race, twice better than a 12-run amateur race, 12-1. Celtic Abbey, 6-1 Lord of the West, 10-1 Brandy Beau, Rusty Bridge, 12-1 Coverable Lane, 20-1 others.

carry the same weight as every other horse. In a *Times* race the other horses could have 21lb weight advantage.

The involvement of licensed trainers in hunter chases is a contentious one and *The Times* broke new ground when the Rising Stars series was introduced two years ago. The conditions exclude the professional unless he, or she, owns the horse.

One change, which was resisted for far too long by the Jockey Club, concerned the graduation of the point-to-point to the racetrack. Until last year a maiden that won a hunter chase was debarré from novice chasing.

The barrier was lifted, albeit with a 4lb penalty, but an anomaly still exists. The licensed trainers can run their horses in hunter chases but the successful owner-trainer is not allowed entry into novice chases.

A review of hunter chasing would be beneficial in order

that a structured programme could be planned to encourage the cream of point-to-pointers on to the racetrack and, if they passed the test, into novice chasing. Additionally, weight conditions should be altered to make hunter chases more competitive.

The *Times* series, taking into account mares and riders' allowances, has a spread of 29lb. If all hunter chases were graded, with those at the bottom having similar conditions to *The Times* series, more horses would be attracted into National Hunt racing.

An intriguing race is in prospect for the first qualifier at Hereford today, which has attracted 12 entries.

Heading the list is last year's John Corbet winner, Celtic Abbey, a hopeful for the Cheltenham Foxhunters.

At level weights he would be the odds-on favourite but the stone advantage Flysevenchannels and Woodbury Fair receive will be a great leveller

in the testing conditions. Celtic Abbey also has to give a stone to Johnny Greenall's promising Lord Of The West.

Celtic Abbey started 1994 as a maiden point-to-pointer and after winning two of his four races switched to hunter chasing. Unlucky to fall when in command on his first appearance, he won his other two races in convincing style.

Mike Felton, who rode Synderborough Lad to win last year's Rising Stars final, will partner Woodbury Fair today. He was successful on heavy going last season. He won by a distance on his reappearance at Larkhill in January and was a creditable second to Celtic Spark on the same course nine days ago.

However, Flysevenchannels gets the vote. He has also won on heavy ground, in Ireland last year. On his only outing this season he beat Saturday's Easton Harriers open winner, Carrots, at Cottenham.

THE TIMES

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Learning to keep your distance

Thirty years ago, had the expression existed at all, distance learning would have meant the type of correspondence course that helped John Major escape from a mundane clerical job. There was nothing else.

Today, it is one of education's boom areas. The range of courses is growing all the time, and some experts believe that eventually open learning will become the norm even for school-age children.

The Open University opened the floodgates in the 1970s, but the communications revolution has encouraged the involvement of more organisations in recent years. Other universities have jumped on the bandwagon, and further-education colleges, and even private companies have set up programmes for their own employees.

With the spread of electronic networks, international boundaries have disappeared for the new generation of open learning programmes. Europe has become a growing marketplace for British courses, and the Internet is poised to provide a worldwide conduit.

In the welter of change, it is easy to forget that the correspondence colleges, where the process began, are still thriving. They, too, have moved with the times, and are using new technologies such as

The electronic revolution has brought a boom to a traditional area of education, says John O'Leary

video conferencing, as well as the traditional postal communication.

Margaret Philpot, the secretary of the Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges, says: "Our name may sound outdated, but we are coming into our own now with a much more flexible approach to learning. People are desperate to improve their career prospects and they are turning to us in increasing numbers."

The 44 colleges under the council's umbrella cover subjects as diverse as genealogy, accountancy, law and psychotherapy. Most of the courses have a vocational slant, whether at degree level or for beginners.

With more than 200,000 people enrolled this year, the Open University remains the big player in the field. But it, too, is spreading its wings. Having expanded its activi-

ties in Europe, the OU has formed the Knowledge Media Institute to bring together its work on multimedia provision, the information superhighway and other futuristic developments.

Academics are developing "virtual" classrooms and laboratories for a new range of courses which they hope will make the university the European leader in its area within three years. Projects are already under way on satellite tuition, multimedia coursework for disabled students, assignments submitted by e-mail and tutorials over the Internet.

The OU is hoping for backing from the European Commission and the Millennium Commission, as well as industrial sponsors to fund its leap into the future. Brussels already supports collaboration in engineering with East European partners, and a European Open University Network is progressing apace.

But the OU will not have things all its own way in its continental venture. The 23 universities belonging to the Open Learning Foundation are already active in Europe, and will show their latest developments at a seminar in London next month.

Based at North London University, the foundation has enjoyed the services of more than 100 academic



Opening the gates to education at an Open University summer school

staff seconded from member institutions over the past year. Some 1,700 hours of new study materials were produced and several "Euro-study centres" established as a result.

The foundation's materials are

now available to 350,000 students, and the organisation has already outgrown its premises. John Bull, the Vice-Chancellor of Plymouth University and the OLF's chairman, attributes the success of the foundation to changing approaches

to teaching and learning within universities.

Next month's seminar, which will make use of video conferencing, cable and satellite facilities, is intended to demonstrate the benefits of distance learning in reducing

costs and increasing efficiency, as well as attracting new students. But it is not just the foundation's members who are aware of the educational potential of the new communication technologies. The Southampton Institute of Higher Education recently launched its first MBA taught over the Internet, and others are thinking of following suit.

Leicester University is one of many planning to expand distance learning activities. An MA in European management and employment law, for example, is tailored to new job opportunities in the single market.

But higher education has no monopoly in distance learning developments. The National Extension College, which was a forerunner of the Open University, is one of a number of organisations offering courses at lower levels. There are 24 GCSE programmes and 21 at A level, plus a range of professional subjects and courses preparing students for the OU.


Labour is committed to an expansion of such opportunities through its plans for a University for Industry. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who has championed the scheme, wants to harness the new technologies both to raise levels of basic education and to improve the country's skills base.

Mr Brown's plan is to pool the expertise of educationists, broadcasters, industrialists and technicians to produce high-quality courses for use in the workplace. By blurring the distinction between education and work, he hopes to make a reality of lifetime learning and so increase British competitiveness.

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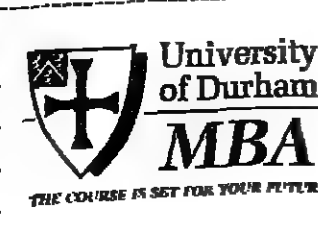
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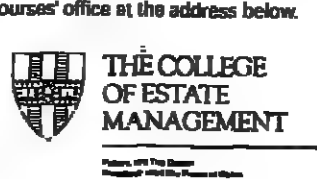

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

Capitalisation,

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the previous day's close, but adjustments are made to reflect price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

SEC ID	Company	Price	Yield	Vol	PE
345	1000 (A)	111	1	4.5	13
60	1000 (B)	121	1	6.6	108
60	1000 (C)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (D)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (E)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (F)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (G)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (H)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (I)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (J)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (K)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (L)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (M)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (N)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (O)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (P)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (Q)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (R)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (S)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (T)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (U)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (V)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (W)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (X)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (Y)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (Z)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AA)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AB)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AC)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AD)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AE)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AF)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AG)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AH)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AI)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AJ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AK)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AL)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AM)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AN)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AO)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AP)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AQ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AR)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AS)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AT)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AU)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AV)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AW)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AX)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AY)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (AZ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BA)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BB)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BC)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BD)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BE)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BF)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BG)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BH)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BI)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BJ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BK)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BL)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BM)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BN)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BO)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BP)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BQ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BR)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BS)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BT)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BU)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BV)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BW)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BX)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BY)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (BZ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CA)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CB)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CC)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CD)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CE)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CF)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CG)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CH)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CI)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CJ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CK)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CL)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CM)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CN)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CO)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CP)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CQ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CR)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CS)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CT)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CU)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CV)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CW)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CX)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CY)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (CZ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DA)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DB)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DC)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DD)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DE)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DF)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DG)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DH)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DI)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DJ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DK)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DL)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DM)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (DN)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (DX)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (DZ)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (EB)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (EC)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (EK)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (EL)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (EM)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (EN)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (FC)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (FJ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FK)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (FN)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FO)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FP)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FQ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FR)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FS)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FT)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FU)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FV)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FW)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FX)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FY)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (FZ)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (GA)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (GG)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (GH)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (GI)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (GJ)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (GT)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (GV)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (GW)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (GX)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (HE)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (HO)	121	1	6.6	108
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100	1000 (HR)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (HS)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (HT)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (HU)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (HV)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (HW)	121	1	6.6	108
100	1000 (HX)	121	1		

Week's change

days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and

Price	Yield	%	Price	Yield	%	Price	Yield	%	Price
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	54.88	12.5	5.6	16.214
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
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16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
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16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
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27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
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16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
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27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
16.52	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
27.78	12.5	5.6	316	13	5.6	20.76	12.5	5.6	2.224
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16.52	12								

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High-earning Whitehall bosses 'live longer'

By VICTORIA MCKEE

HIGH salaries have come under attack recently, but the latest evidence is that they make for healthier, if not necessarily more productive, bosses. Researchers engaged in a study of health and mortality rates among more than 10,000 civil servants found the higher the pay, the lower the risk of death and disease across all ages. These findings coincide with the announcement of 25 per cent pay rises for senior civil servants, and the 75 per cent increase in salary, to £475,000, for Cedric Brown, of British Gas.

High salaries may be a reward for heavy responsibilities, but they bring with them official cars, personal assistants and other support

systems, plus private health care and pensions. Cary Cooper, an occupational stress expert at Urmist (University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology), says "golden parachutes" exist for those with further to fall. He claims that middle, not top, managers were the unlucky ones in the 1970s.

Michael Marmot, professor of epidemiology and public health, and director of the international centre for health and society at University College, London, who has been involved with the civil service studies for 15 years, says top jobs also bring with them a greater degree of "variety and control". If Sir Iain Vallance, head of British Telecom, who recently provoked outcry by demanding more sympathy for the

lot of those at the top, was made to sit at the switchboard five days a week, Professor Marmot predicts it would not be good for his health. Those in repetitive work were found to have higher levels of heart disease than those at the top.

Professor Cooper, author of *The Stress Survivors*, thinks that those at the top are self-selected — they are there because they are better copers. He says: "From a study we did of chief executives throughout Europe in 1990, I think we will find that they are beginning to suffer more from stress as the old guard is replaced by a new breed of younger executives."

From 80 occupational health studies Professor Cooper has also concluded that women at the top are better at handling stress than men.

This might be because they have never been able to depend on domestic support systems the way men have.

Jonathan Powell, 46, and formerly Controller of BBC1, is now head of drama for Carlton Television. He left his BBC job in 1992. Now he says he feels calmer, with more time to enjoy his infant daughter. He says: "Running BBC1 was a stressful job by anyone's standards, and you don't get golden parachutes, handshakes, handouts or anything else. I feel much calmer now, and I suppose I also feel more in control because I am now more responsible for what I do, rather than being 100 per cent reliant on other people."

Alan Yentob, also 46, is now controller of BBC1. He says: "Stress

is only a consequence of pressure. You have to enjoy the challenge in a job like this, otherwise you're in the wrong job."

"Some people have no choice, and that is unfortunate. I have always felt that what I do is a vocation, but finding time with a young family is sometimes difficult."

Jennifer Laing, chairman and chief executive of her own advertising agency, Laing Henry, and formerly a co-chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, says she has never been aware of suffering stress at work. She says: "I think I have the knack of transferring my stress to everyone else around me — and at the top you can transfer it down! Stress is about frustration, and I can always take action."

Austria may leave EBRD over nuclear power plan

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

NON-NUCLEAR Austria threatens to become the first country to quit the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), unless it succeeds in blocking a controversial DM1.45 billion nuclear power plant in Slovakia.

In an unanimous vote, the Austrian parliament has called on the coalition government of Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, to consider withdrawing Austria from the EBRD because of the bank's support for the nuclear project.

The departure of Austria, which has a 2.3 per cent shareholding in the EBRD, could open the way to other countries reconsidering their commitment to the bank.

The need for the bank, whose headquarters are in the Broadgate complex in the City, was widely questioned when, in 1993, it was reported

to have lavished more on buildings and staff than on target economies in the former Soviet bloc.

The Austrian government has traditionally kept a low profile on the international stage. However, its newly acquired membership of the European Union appears to have encouraged it to make demands that some EBRD member countries regard as unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of another country.

The EBRD's contribution to the project will be DM412.5 million. The plan, which comes before the EBRD board for final approval next month, involves the completion, with Western technology, of four Soviet VVER-440/213 pressurised water reactors at Mochovce in southeast Slovakia.

However, Preussen Elektra, one of the two German power companies behind the scheme, has dropped out. Bayernwerk, the Bavarian utility company, said it remains committed to the scheme.

The DM92 million gap Preussen Elektra's departure left in the financing of the scheme, has been filled by Electricité de France (EdF), the French state controlled power group, making it the biggest corporate participant, with DM250 million. Euratom, the lending arm of the European Union's nuclear industry, is another backer.

Critics of Mochovce argue that it is giving Western European power utilities access to cheap nuclear energy from Eastern Europe, which they would be unable to produce at home because of domestic resistance to nuclear power.

EBRD officials, who counter that the Slovakian scheme would improve nuclear safety in Eastern Europe, not worsen it, said that the Mochovce scheme is still expected to be approved and that Preussen Elektra's dropping out would make no difference.



Ricardo Group is assisting Richard Noble's Thrust SSC land speed record attempt by providing six engineers to design the body panels. They will use experience gained from work on the aft fuselage of the Shorts Learjet 45.

Europe will miss target on 'greenhouse' gas, study says

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

INCREASED use of oil products for private and public transport will cause Europe to miss its target of stabilising emissions of "greenhouse" gases, a research report by economic forecasters concludes. After the turn of the century, growth in emissions is likely to accelerate again, because of changes in the electricity industry.

DRI says that energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas mainly blamed for causing global warming, are likely to have risen by 6.4 per cent between 1990 and the end of the century. Within this, transport is likely to pump out 22 per cent more across Western Europe.

The European Union, and several individual countries such as Britain, have pledged to return emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. Denmark and the Benelux countries, have promised cuts ranging from 3

to 30 per cent. Based on economic and industrial forecasts, however, DRI expects 14 European countries, including Britain, to miss their targets. Germany and Belgium may come close, but solely because the recession was worse than they expected. Only France, Spain and the Irish Republic, which all allowed themselves increases in carbon dioxide over the period, would meet their targets.

The EU has conceded that its target is unlikely to be met on present national policies. The DRI forecasts are likely to raise pressure for further policy moves at a conference to be held in Berlin next month when countries that made commitments to the Rio summit on environment and development will review progress.

The most shocking element in the DRI study is a projection that emissions will rise by 15 per cent between 2000 and 2015. DRI blames this accel-

eration squarely on the decline of nuclear power.

European countries are becoming more energy-efficient and their industries less energy-intensive, so that demand for power will grow much slower than output. But this effect will be heavily outweighed by the switch from nuclear power to producing electricity from fossil fuels, principally gas and coal. These give off carbon dioxide when burnt.

Since the Sizewell B station started operating in Suffolk, no West European country except France has any plans to add nuclear generating capacity, according to DRI. As a result, it projects that nuclear power will decline from 40 per cent of electricity supplies in 2000 to 30 per cent by 2015 as old stations are phased out. Renewable forms of energy will grow rapidly, DRI predicts, but still meet only 3 per cent of demand by 2015.

M&S pulls ahead in store wars

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

MARKS & SPENCER, Next and River Island are winning the battle in the high street, according to a report by Verdict, the retail analyst.

Its latest study of the £20 billion clothing market shows that these three have gained share at the expense of competitors in the past two years.

M&S has seen its market share rise to 15.6 per cent, from 14.7 per cent, since 1992. Verdict says this growth has been driven by its heightened price competitiveness, and proves the chain still has significant growth potential in the UK.

Next now has 2.4 per cent of the market and River Island has lifted its share to 1.5 per cent from 1.3 per cent. The Burton Group's multiple chains, such as Top Shop/Top Man and Principles, have seen their share fall to 5.6 per cent, from 6.2 per cent. Littlewoods and Etam have also lost ground.

UK set for £650m Samsung boost

By OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT



Lee Kun Hee: eyeing UK

BRITAIN is centre-stage for a £650 million investment by Samsung, the globally expanding South Korean industrial conglomerate. In a new microchip plant to serve the European market.

Industry sources said yesterday that in all discussions of the microchip plant project to date, Britain, which last year secured a £450 million investment from Samsung for a complex at Wymondley, Cleveland, to produce microchips and monitors, had been the favoured choice for the new factory.

Samsung, chaired by Lee Kun Hee, is a leading-edge player in microchip technology, especially in memory chips. Its exports have benefited from the strength of the yen, which has created problems for its Japanese rivals.

The group's Samsung Elec-

tronics wants to build \$1 billion microchip plants in Europe, America and Asia. Last year, it supplied the European market with about \$1 billion worth of microchips, a third of which came to Britain, from production facilities in Korea.

Its microchip sales in Europe rose by about 100 per cent last year as economic recovery and modernisation boosted world demand. Figures issued in Seoul yesterday, showed that the lucrative Samsung Electronics increased its net profit last year by a provisional 450 per cent to 850 billion won (£690 million), mainly reflecting overseas demand for microchips.

Sales surged to 11.3 trillion won, from 8.15 trillion won. When unveiling its plans for the Wymondley complex, and its simultaneous decision to switch its European headquarters from Frankfurt to London, Samsung said that operations in Cleveland could be extended to micro-chips by 1999.

The company was unwilling to comment on reports from America that the European microchip plant was intended to go into production in 1997. However, industry sources suggested that such a timetable would be too tight.

Samsung is understood to be looking into the environmental suitability of the Wymondley site for the new microchip facility, but a Scottish location might prove more favourable.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Managers bullish on UK equities

THE latest monthly survey of fund managers conducted by Gallup for Smith New Court, the City securities house, has found that fund managers are most bullish on prospects for UK equities out of all the global equity markets. The February survey, which involved 79 institutions handling funds totalling £963 billion, shows that a balance of 21 per cent of fund managers are looking to raise their weighting of UK equities. Respondents also expressed a preference for larger companies. Earnings growth forecasts edged downwards, but dividend growth expectations improved slightly.

The survey found fund managers were looking to increase their weighting in overseas bonds and deposits. The balance looking to raise their exposure to overseas bonds and deposits rose to 31 per cent, up from 17 per cent in January and 7 per cent in December. On the economy, respondents were less optimistic than in previous months. Only 55 per cent expect an improvement in the general economic situation, compared with 71 per cent in January. On average, fund managers expect base rates of 7.4 per cent in a year's time.

'Single currency by 2001'

AN OVERWHELMING majority of Britain's top finance directors think that a single European currency will be in place by 2001, according to a survey carried out for the BBC's *The Money Programme*. Of the 100 directors polled, only 35 thought it was likely to be in place by 1997; 71 expect it to be in place in 1999; and 86 by two years later. The directors, selected from Britain's top 500 companies, were telephoned last week on the eve of Kenneth Clarke's speech. Almost two thirds of the directors believed that a single currency would be of benefit to their companies, while 28 per cent did not know whether it have an effect on their companies, and 12 thought it would be bad.

Expro heads for market

EXPRO GROUP, the independent supplier of oilfield services, intends to float this spring with an expected market capitalisation in excess of £100 million. The company, which was established in 1973 made a pre-tax profit of £10.4 million on turnover of £65.4 million in the year ended March 31, 1994. The group was the subject of a management buyout from Flextech, arranged and underwritten by CINVen in 1992. Ecodrill had been acquired in 1990 to offer qualified drilling engineers and a well engineering and drilling project management consultancy. The float will be sponsored by Robert Fleming and Cazenove will be brokers to the issue.

Business rate battle

BUSINESSES that take measures to protect their premises from burglary are to be punished with higher business rates bills, according to the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), which launches a campaign today to get the 1994 Valuation for Rating (Plant and Machinery) Regulations changed. John Harris, national chairman of the FSB, said: "If our members fit shutters to deter ram raiders then they are rewarded by an increase in their non-domestic rate bill." Members are calling upon MPs to support their campaign to change the rules on rates calculations. Security cameras, display screens, controls, sensors and relays are excluded from calculations but other plant and machinery from April 1 will be included.

Berlin property ruling

THE German Federal Administrative Court will today make a landmark decision concerning billions of marks worth of land assets in Berlin and whether they will be returned to their original owners. The ruling concerns more than 900 sites in the city, including many in prominent positions, where land prices are at a premium. A decision in favour of the former owners would, in some of the bigger cases, bring huge benefits to companies such as Kodak and Siemens. The property law that governs the return of assets seized by the Nazi regime, or by the East German government, does not apply to the period between 1945 and 1949, when East Germany was under direct military rule by the Soviet Army.

Newmarch probe to end

THE Stock Exchange is hoping to complete its investigation into the share dealings carried out by Mick Newmarch, the former chief executive of the Prudential, this week. The timing of its report will depend on whether the Exchange's appeals procedure has been exhausted, and whether it feels that it needs to gather further evidence. Mr Newmarch made £202,775 last November by exercising share options and selling the shares hours before the Securities and Investments Board released details of its report into the mis-selling of pension transfers. Mr Newmarch's dramatic resignation last month came after the Stock Exchange began an investigation into his share dealings.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

TENEPROSO

(a) One of a group of early 17th-century Italian painters influenced by Caravaggio, whose work is characterised by dramatic contrasts of light and shade. "The naturalist school, called also the school of the Tenebrosi, or shadow painters."

TOROID

(a) An object shaped like a torus, ie a figure generated by the revolution of a circle or other conic section about a straight line in its own plane. From the Latin *torus* a bulge or swelling. "The term toroid in this connection means a circular coil of *n* turns of wire wound so that the cross-section is a circle."

SHIATSU

(b) A kind of therapy, of Japanese origin, in which pressure is applied with the thumbs and palms to certain points on the body, translocation of the Japanese word, which means literally "finger-pressure". "Shiatsu was developed centuries ago in Japan as a refinement of the acupuncture treatment from China."

SECKO

(b) Australian slang for a sexual pervert or a sex offender, a shortened form of sex + o. "I noticed Australians use a lot of diminutives, like Chrissie, pressie and journo. 'In jails sex offenders are called seckos,' I told him."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Best throws a spanner in the works. If 1... Nx4 or 1... Bxc4, White safely captures the black queen with 2. Rd8. If Black saves the queen with 1... Qe7, then 2. Bxa2 wins a piece for White.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.20	2.08
Austria Sch	17.72	16.22
Belgium Fr	51.88	47.58
Canada \$	2.287	2.127
Cyprus Cyp£	0.775	0.720
Denmark Kr	9.87	9.17
Finland Mk	7.93	7.25
France Fr	6.57	6.02
Germany Dm	2.33	2.32
Greece Dr	393.00	388.00
Hong Kong \$	12.67	11.67
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Italy Lira	2025.00	2470.00
Japan Yen	168.00	152.00
Malta	0.613	0.558
Netherlands Gld	2.815	2.585
Norway Kr	10.99	10.19
Portugal Esc	258.00	287.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.28
Spain Pta	212.00	198.00
Sweden Kr	12.19	11.39
Switzerland Fr	2.14	1.98
Turkey Lira	ref.	61434.0
USA \$	1.853	1.523

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar

1.5607 (-0.0040)

German mark

2.3785 (-0.0077)

Exchange index

78.9 (-0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share

2364.8 (+45.0)

FT-SE 100

3109.9 (+50.2)

New York Dow Jones

3939.07 (+10.43)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

18291.35 (+247.62)

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Of importance,
more or less.

Competition will not get any easier and few would wish a return of 1970s union power. Unless some of these trends are reversed soon, public opinion will surely swing, public anti-business. Reversing fiscal incentives—such as those that hit the family—would make a useful start. Employers' National Insurance contributions cut the demand for labour and give incentives to substitute low-paid, part-time work for full-time jobs. Employers could be given incentives via the tax system to increase employment and to pay decent wages, rather than being penalised. Moderating the new culture will take longer.

CHRIS DILLOW
Nomura Research Institute

RADIO CHOICE

RADIO 1

WORLD SERVICE

times in GMT 4.30am BBC English
Frühmagazin 5.00 Newshour 5.05
Morgenmagazin 6.30 Europe Today
at News 7.15 Jean de Florette 7.30
Man Herbivores 8.00 News 8.10
Days of Faith 8.15 Health Matters 8.30
Nothing Goes 9.00 News 9.05 Bush
Report 9.15 Lances to Lesers 9.30
Learning World 9.45 Sport 10.00
News 10.01 The Rape of Mitelzeurca
10.10 The Vintage Chart Show 11.00

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 8.00am Sarah Kennedy
8.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up
 to Wogan **9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30**
Ken Bruce, including at 10.00 **Pick of the**
Kits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria
Hammond 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John
Dunn 7.00 Hubert Green 7.30 Campbell
Burnup with Dance Band 8.30, and at
8.00 Big Band Era 9.30 Big Band
Special: from the Empire Theatre,
Sunderland (1/2) 9.00 Humphrey Lytton
with the Best of Jazz 10.00
Adventures in Jazz: Jopie Holland
 presents six concerts featuring Britain's
 best young jazz performers, beginning
 with trumpeter Gerard Presencer **10.30**
The Jamesons 12.05am Digby Fair-
weather with Jazz Notes 1.00 Steve
Madden 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.50 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazines, including at 10.35 Euronews 11.00 Activity 12.00 Midday with Blair, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Russell on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 sport 7.35 Giant-Killers' 1989 — Sutton Limited v Coventry City 8.00 The Monday Match: West Ham v Everton at Everton Park 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

CLASSIC FM

5.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly
12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm
Lunchtime Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crick
6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 The LSC —
90 Legendary Years 1984-1994 8.00
Evening Concert 10.00 Mark Griffiths
1.00am André Leon

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard
Slonner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm
Wendy Lloyd 7.30 Paul Coyte 11.00
Nick Abbot 2.00am Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

8.30am Open University: Culture and Belief in Europe: The Cosmos 6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air: Hummel
 (Introduction, Theme and Variations, Op 102);
 Godowsky (Miniatures, Third set); Saint-Saëns (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor, Op 33), Georg Muffat (Concerto Convalescentia in F);
 Massenet (Elegie); **8.30 Quartet Collection: Haydn**

Goldmark (Rustic Wedding Symphony)
3.45 Pachelbel: Hans Fagius continues his exploration of organ music by Johann Pachelbel
4.30 Oster's Blues: Professor Harry Oster talks to Francis Willford-Smith about the bluesmen he discovered in New Orleans in 1960
5.00 The Music Machine: Sarah Jane Morris at the Wavendon

5.

10.00 Musical Encounters: Stephanie Hughes presents a week of programmes from Belfast. Malcolm Arnold (A Flourish); Constant Lambert (Ballet Suite, Horoscope); **10.40 Artist of the Week:** Malcolm Proud, harpsichord. Bach (Prelude and Fugue in A minor); 10.55 J. Strauss, son (An der schönen blauen Donau); Ibert (Suite

Jazz summer course
5.15 In Tune, presented by
Richard Baker
7.30 EBU International Concert
Season, live from Baden,
Baden in Germany. South
West German SO under
Michael Gielen performs
Schreker (Der Geburtstag der
Infantin); Webern (Variations);
Ives (Two Contemplations);
8.20 David Huckleale on the
mystical background to the
works of Busoni and Vermeer;
8.40 Busoni (Nocturne
svw030301e) - Vienna

0.2 9.1

12.00 Britain's at the Opera: Highlights of the BBC Concert Orchestra under James Lockhart in a performance of Edward Loder's dramatic work, *Raymond and Agnes*

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert: Golub, Kaplan and Carr Trio, live from St John's, Smith Square, London

2.00 Schools: Twentieth-century Soundbites 2.15 Synthesizer

9.15 **Buongiorno, Temore! See Choice**

9.40 **New Waves:** A series of concerts featuring young composers working with young artists, recorded at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. The pianist Rolf Hind and the composer Gerald Barry talk to Chris de Souza

10.45 **Mixing it:** with Robert Sandell and Mark Russell

11.30-12.30am **Musical Restored:** The Orlando Consort with the

1

3.00 *Uttler Orchestra under Adrian Leaper performs*

5.55am Shipping **6.00** News, incl
6.03 Weather **6.10** Farming
Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day
6.30 Today, incl **7.25**, **8.25**
Sports News **7.45** Thought for
the Day **8.40** Who Goes
Home: Roy Hattersley looks
back on a lifetime in the

3.00 The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope:
Natalie Wheen's guests
include the American
composer Michael Torke; and
there is a performance from
the Apollo Saxophone Quartet
4.45 Short Story: White Places

file

9.00 News **9.05 Start the Week**, presented by Melynn Bragg and Kate Saunders. With Ann Leslie, Philip Hedley, Jon Stallworthy and Professor James O'Connell

10.00-10.30 News: Worldly Wise (FRI only), with Peter Hobday

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from Chester Cathedral

10.15 Something Understood (LW only): Beginnings. Readings from cultures across the world

10.30 Worldwide News: The

Teresa Gallagher reads Mary Flanagan's story
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 News 6.30 Just a Minute:
 Derek Nimmo, Peter Jones,
 Tony Hawkes and Jerry
 Hardy try to talk for a minute
 without hesitation, repetition
 or deviation. The chairman is
 Nicholas Parsons (f)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme (f)
7.45 The Monday Play: The
Importance of Being
Earnest. See Choice

9.00

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444 from 10am
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Counterpoint: Ned Sherrin conducts the music quiz 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Enchanting Evil, by Dame Barbara Cartland. Sir Hector Stanyon commands Melinda, his

9.00 **Blessing the Beauty Shop:**
Anja Sharma explores the family history behind the opening of a new beauty salon 5.59 Weather

10.00 **The World Tonight**

10.45 **Book at Bedtime: News from Nowhere,** by William Morris (1/5) (r)

11.00-11.30 **Eurocast (FM only):**
Richard Leakey discusses with Barbara Myers his life, palaeontology and wildlife conservation in Kenya (r)

11.00-11.30 **Education Matters**
(LW only, presented by

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and escapes by train to London where she is befriended by a seemingly respectable lady who makes her an amazing offer. With Jenny Funnell, Timothy Rawnick and Roger Hume

Time columnist Libby Purves, including a report on Family Literacy Week

11.30 The Three Musketeers (Fall only): Final part of Alexandre Dumas's swashbuckler (F)

12.00-12.43pm News, incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 As World Service (LW)

FM-88-90.2 RADIO 3: FM-90.2: 82.4-94.8; LW 198. RADIO 5: LW RADIO: 1152kd-12263m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD MUSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: compiled by Peter Dear and

High-spirited follies will go the distance

The yelping has all worth it, as it turns out. Last week, *The Buccaneers* (BBC1) may have overdone it slightly, but it was just taking a leaf from *Black Beauty*, that other great British classic of gorgeous, spirited horse-flesh. First you must see the ponies running wild and free, bucking and neighing for pure pleasure (with chums called things like Merrylegs). And then they must be lured into harnesses, which constrain and chafe them, and finally they must be brought buckling to their knees. Poor Conchita married the worthless Lord Richard. Poor Virginia has now married the loveless Seadown. Poor Nan is poised to commit herself to a duke whose greatest joy is the simultaneous churning of the family clocks. I am glad now that the girls got their time in the sunshine. (Note from editor: I'm confused. Which one married Merrylegs?) Last week, it looked as though

The Buccaneers would be remembered for the glory of the frocks and the photography (which are superb), but this week, with the plot cooking, such frivolity was not to be thought of. The girls have become more than the sum of their frills. Each character is subtly splintering off, bewildered, to face the inevitable ruin of hope. The acting has deepened. Big, uneasy Chekhovian scenes are handled superbly — the arrival at Runnymede of the fierce, forsaken Idina (Jenny Agutter), for example. Like a human earthquake in tight lacing, she broke up the lazy summer swanning at her cottage, challenged the Americans at cards, lost badly, and then uncontrollably goaded the company until she forced the conclusion she feared the most (her lover's engagement to another woman).

Time is foreshortened in *The Buccaneers*, as is distance. It's hard to know where the houses

are, and how long has been spent in them. Girls receive proposals, and are married within the half-hour. When Colonel St George appeared suddenly at a billiard table, one assumed momentarily that the scene had switched to New York — but no, he was the guest of Lord Brightinghouse (Dinsdale Landen on brilliant form), and time had telescoped yet again. Interesting the way some of Edith Wharton's names have been changed by the adapter, Maggie Wadley — Idina Chubb becomes Idina Hutton, Guy Thwaite becomes Guy Thwaite. Perhaps Idina's hurt and Guy's thwartedness were clear enough without the underlining.

Funny old Sir Peter Hall came up with a strange opinion in Saturday night's *Area*: The Peter Sellers Story (BBC2). He said that Sellers was as good an actor as Alec Guinness and



Lynne Truss

Laurence Olivier. Isn't that peculiar? One often wonders whether pundits engage the marbles before they speak. But Hall has such a measured intelligence — in professional matters he is so accurate, so nice — that you can't imagine him making random remarks to be regretted after.

One thing is sure: if celluloid evidence exists of Peter Sellers's supreme gift, Peter Lydon's three-

part biography will find it. This is a painstaking piece — conventional in style, packed with matter, years in the making. But where normally a commentary unfolds against a mix of stills and clips (sometimes only approximately relevant), here Sellers's own home movie archive provides pictures for every occasion, so that the man is constantly on the screen, in motion, always "on". Sellers's son Michael remembered his father as a man with a light meter; he was deeply in love with the camera. On the set of *I'm All Right, Jack* (1959), there is film of Sellers arriving by car at the studio, milling on set with the director, and then a silent, balletic, Buster Keaton-like sequence of him driving a fork-lift truck. There is, apparently, no end to this man's footage.

For his performance in *I'm All Right, Jack*, Sellers won the Baffa that Olivier didn't get for *The Entertainer*, so perhaps Sir Peter

has a point. Meanwhile Lydon skirted delicately around the usual trite conclusion about comics and impersonators — that they don't know who they really are, that perhaps (gasps!) they are nobody. Sellers is a prime candidate for such an analysis; additionally, he fits the mould of spoiled baby perfectly — without touching the sides. When Sellers got rich, he bought toys. When he got married, he spent his evenings making model boats with Graham Stark. Meritfully no film of this, overlaid with funny voices, appears to exist.

Lastly, I hate to be a kill-joy, but the first of the new series (*A Bit of Fry and Laurie*) (BBC1) afflicted me with an unmistakable déjà vu last night, and not only because it brought back painful memories of Fry and Laurie's *Christmas Night with the Stars*. No, the difficult "bit" was the sketch based on Frank Capra's

It's a Wonderful Life, cleverly inverted so that the hero, through divine intervention, learns how much better the world would have been if he had never been born. This seemed eerily familiar to me, mainly because I wrote a story with a highly similar gist, several years ago, which has been broadcast twice on Radio 4 and published both in *The Listener* and in a book of short stories, (In Fry and Laurie's version the chap was Rupert Murdoch: in mine, it wasn't).

Though I understand there is no copyright in ideas, it still strikes me as rather unfair that in the future, when people read my story, they will assume I nicked the idea from *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*. It's like suddenly discovering that you never existed. On the other hand, since we both nicked the idea from the first place, I assume I haven't a leg to stand on.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

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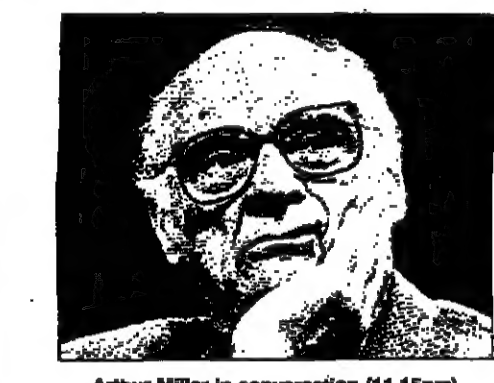
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- BBC1**
- 9.00 Business Breakfast with Paul Burden and Sara Coburn (13023)
- 7.00 Breakfast News (6275348)
- 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (9101139)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1277348) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (s) (8874684)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1152374) 12.05 Pebble Mill. A special edition celebrating the tenth anniversary of *EastEnders* (s) (238416) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7548070)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (78941)
- 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (8211977) 1.50 Timekeepers. Quiz game (s) (8211977)
- 2.15 Knots Landing. American drama spin-off from the Dallas saga (s) (643684) 2.30 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Pepin prepares a Puerto Rican dish (8395)
- 3.30 Cartoon (5542042) 3.45 Bodge and Bodge (s) (554757) 4.00 Jackanory. Rik Mayall with part one of Kay Umansky's *The Frog Prince and the Witch* (s) (4410771) 4.10 The Legend of Prince Valiant (Ceefax) (s) (433495) 4.35 Tomorrow's End (s) (Ceefax) (5508313)
- 5.00 Newsround (7532888) 5.10 Blue Peter. A behind-the-scenes look at the filming of *The Big*, a new drama following the fortunes of students at a performing arts school. (Ceefax) (s) (986348)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (876139) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (918)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines (110)
- 7.00 Champion Teddy Addicts. The first semi-final of the champion of champions competition (s) (6145)
- 7.30 Watchdog. Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson. (Ceefax) (s) (584)
- 8.00 EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (8555)
- 8.30 The Detectives. Comedy series starring Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell. (Ceefax) (s) (1400)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8348)
- 9.30 Panorama: Dead Poor. A report on the discrepancy in Britain of the life expectancy between rich and poor. (Ceefax) (823394)
- BBC2**
- 6.20 Open University: The Creation of Childhood 6.45 Disappearing Childhood 7.10 Working with Systems 7.35 Women Artists: Feminist Strategies (13824892)
- 8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (7596400)
- 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Sarah Badel. The guests are MPs Theresa Gorman and Sir Teddy Taylor (s) (4189400)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-1.25 Playdays (2216145) 2.00 Tales of Aesop (41651400) 2.05 Rupert (41650771)
- 2.10 FILM: Warm Hearts, Cold Feet (1987) starring Margaret Colin and Tim Matheson. Comedy about two journalists, married to each other but working on rival newspapers, who start writing about each other in their respective columns. Directed by James Frawley. (Ceefax) (805400). Includes, at 3.00, News and weather (3879042)
- 4.00 Today's Day. Recent history quiz (s) (333)
- 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Innovative recipes (s) (435)
- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are victims of violent crimes who offer advice on how to overcome the trauma of the experience. (Ceefax) (s) (4402587)
- 5.40 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (s) (140508)
- 6.30 The Private Life of Plants: Living Together. Sir David Attenborough examines the battle for survival in the plant world (s) (Ceefax) (s) (454503)
- 7.20 Concertos From Coventry (s) (18425481)
- 9.00 Blood and Peaches. (Ceefax) (s) (3803963)
- 10.15 Jim Tavaris Pictures Presents... Comedy series about a man and his double bass (s) (180077)
- 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (847771)

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Arthur Miller in conversation (11.15pm)

- 11.15 Face To Face. Jeremy Isaacs talks to the playwright Arthur Miller about his work. In Miller's first important interview for nearly a decade (s) (905435) 11.55 Weather (352619)
- 12.00 Medicine: The Challenge Of Judgement (1833820)
- 12.25am Introduction To Design (6045578)
- 1.15-1.40 The Record. The day in Parliament (6404004)
- 2.00-4.00 Night School: Access To Learning — Go for It! (81911)
- 4.45-5.15 BBC Select: Disability Advice (6017801)
- 5.00 Strathclyde TV — Putting You in the Picture (127356)
- 5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update (74004)

- CHOICE**
- 9.00 GMTV (30322)
- 9.25 Chain Letters. Word game (s) (4981110) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2120394)
- 10.00 The Times... The Place. Members of an invited studio audience air their views (s) (4310961)
- 10.35 This Morning (5038177) 10.50pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1152358)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4804665)
- 12.55 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (4912684) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (561110)
- 1.55 Capital Woman. A report on why Britain is a nation obsessed with collecting (s) (8342845)
- 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (6105232) 2.50 Blue Heelers. Mrs Stewart goes to the police when she discovers a disturbing entry in her daughter's diary (9862890)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (7521674) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7520145)
- 3.50 Rainbow (s) (9626058) 3.40 Total TV (s) (3877684)
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- 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (6517858)
- 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (119481)
- 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' opinions (696023)
- 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (226)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (706)
- 7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Judith Chalmers visits Warwick Castle. John Carter explores three cities in America and Anna Walker travels to Holland by barge and bicycle (Teletext) (s) (8313)
- 7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (690)
- 8.00 Lucky Numbers. Shane Ritchie hosts the show in which three contestants battle for a £20,000 prize (8801)
- 8.30 World In Action. Thalidomide victim Kevin Donnellon from Liverpool and other victims talk about the pressures and problems facing them as they grow older (Teletext) (s) (3868)

Cutting Edge: A is for Accident
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Dreadful things take place daily on Britain's roads and with the help of police videos this frightening film brings us a selection of them. On the M6 in Cheshire it has been raining, vehicles are travelling too close and a cavalier goes into a spin. There is collision after collision as traffic behind tries to take evasive action. The Cavalier drives off and is never traced. Elsewhere a young man is stopped for erratic driving. He is lipply with the police but let off with a warning. The next night he ploughs into a parked vehicle and nearly kills himself. "A grade A plonker," says the cop. Nine out of ten road casualties are caused by men, though we also hear of a woman who whiles away boring motorway journeys by doing crossword puzzles.

Concertos From Coventry
BBC1, 7.20pm

A live relay from Coventry Cathedral brings a concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Coventry's twin city of Dresden. The programme comprises two piano concertos written nearly 150 years apart. Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto is played by Stephen Kovacevich and Sir Michael Tippett's Piano Concerto by Martin Lint. The concertos have contrasting attitudes towards war. Beethoven's response was heroic while Tippett was imprisoned in 1943 for his pacifist beliefs. There are, however, structural similarities between their concertos and these are explored by tonight's two pianists in an interval feature that also includes observations by John Anis, Lord Soper and Antony Hopkins.

Bomber Harris
BBC1, 10.10pm (Scotland, 11.30pm)

The bombing of Dresden is further recalled in Don Shaw's fact-based drama about Sir Arthur Harris. First shown in 1989, as head of Bomber Command, Harris pursued the obsession that the way to shorten the war was to bomb German cities, civilians and all. Critics questioned the morality of the policy as well as its effectiveness. Although Harris is depicted as a dedicated, patriotic and a victim of hypocrisy, Harris's script eventually reveals the other side, as in Harris's brutal dismissal of his chaplain: "You return to your conscience and let me get back to the war." Harris is compellingly played by John Shaw, one of the best things he has done. Peter Waymark

- CARLTON**
- 6.00 GMTV (30322)
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Mystery with John Heard, Goldie Hawn (9.00pm)

- 9.00 FILM: Deceived (1991). A New York art dealer uncovers a web of deceit and murder following the death of his husband. Starring Goldie Hawn and John Heard. Directed by Charles Shyer. Continues after the News. (Teletext) (s) (7936)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (23226)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (79705)
- 10.40 FILM: Deceived. Conclusion of the film (777329)
- 11.40 The Equalizer (74526)
- 12.40pm Endemol League Extra (1780606)
- 1.25 Sport AM, with Bob Symonds (553735)
- 2.25 Quiz Night. The Prize Tree from Liverpool v the Cranford Inn, Devon (1736207)
- 2.50 FILM: The 400 Blows (1976). A secret service agent infiltrates a tough terrorist group. Directed by Stephen Frears. (s) (65380801)
- 4.55 The Times... The Place (s) (6832714)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (Teletext) (61530) Ends at 6.00

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Sandakan (s) (8049668)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (93934)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (s) (78413)
- 9.30 Schools: Geography Start Here! (9109752) 9.45 Talk, Write and Read (9295503) 10.02 Stage Two Science (6076503) 10.20 Place and People (985959) 10.40 English Programme (3841684) 11.05 Encyclopaedia Galaxia (9545313) 11.15 The Music Show (2055058) 11.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat (7829261) 11.45 Junior Technology (3349619)
- 12.00 Right To Reply (s) (20139)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is Bill Irwin (13526) 1.30 Little Miss followed by Paddington, Frootie Tooties and The Wombles (s) (5962282)
- 1.55 The Pulse. A repeat of Thursday's edition of the medical magazine (s) (4477941)
- 2.25 Travels A La Carte. Sophie Grigson and her husband, William Black, sample food in a Portuguese fishing village (s) (1002481)
- 3.00 The Late Late Show. Dublin's topical chat and music show, presented by Gay Byrne (s) (6152771)
- 3.55 The 3,000 Mile Garden (s) (Teletext) (s) (8225058)
- 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (503)
- 5.00 The Golden Girls. The girls find themselves alone on St Valentine's Day and start to reminisce about times gone by. With guest star Julie Giles (s) (9819)
- 5.30 Nurses. Comedy series set in a Miami hospital (s) (955)
- 6.00 The Cosby Show (s) (Teletext) (s) (888)
- 6.30 Hangin' With Mr. Cooper. American campus comedy. (Teletext) (s) (348)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (860456)
- 7.50 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox series (74955)
- 8.00 Little Giants: The Handsome Killers. The last in the series focuses on the stoat and the weasel. Made by the celebrated wildlife film-maker Maurice Tibbles. (Teletext) (s) (8503)
- 8.30 Only When I Laugh. Comedy series set in a hospital ward. Starring James Bolam, Christopher Straub, Peter Bowles and Richard Wilson (s) (Teletext) (4110)



PC Wilson on dangerous driving (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Cutting Edge: A is for Accident. (Teletext) (1706)
- 10.00 NYPD Blue. New York police drama series. (Teletext) (s) (978481)
- 10.55 Tommy Davidson: Illin' In Philly. The comedian on stage at the Shubert Theatre in Philadelphia (s) (212597)
- 11.35 FILM: Medea (1970) starring Maria Callas as the priestess who betrayed her people in order to help Jason steal the Golden Fleece. Directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini. In Italian with English subtitles (485503)
- 1.35am Eye 2 Eye. Design quiz presented by Steve Taylor. The guests are Paul Morley, Michael Heath and Philippe Starck (s) (413882)
- 2.10 FILM: Whoopie (1930) starring Eddie Cantor. Vintage musical directed by Thornton Freeland (407085). Ends at 3.45

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News and weather (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 1.25pm-1.30pm Country Practice (8210310) 2.30pm-2.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 3.40pm-3.45pm Anglia News (1230394) 4.30pm-4.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 5.10pm-5.15pm Anglia News (1230394) 5.40pm-5.45pm Anglia News (1230394) 6.30pm-6.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 7.30pm-7.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 8.30pm-8.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 9.30pm-9.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 10.30pm-10.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 11.30pm-11.35pm Anglia News (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm Anglia News (1230394)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Central News and weather (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm Central News (1230394) 1.25pm-1.30pm Country Practice (8210310) 2.30pm-2.35pm Central News (1230394) 3.40pm-3.45pm Central News (1230394) 4.30pm-4.35pm Central News (1230394) 5.10pm-5.15pm Central News (1230394) 5.40pm-5.45pm Central News (1230394) 6.30pm-6.35pm Central News (1230394) 7.30pm-7.35pm Central News (1230394) 8.30pm-8.35pm Central News (1230394) 9.30pm-9.35pm Central News (1230394) 10.30pm-10.35pm Central News (1230394) 11.30pm-11.35pm Central News (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm Central News (1230394)
- GRANADA**
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- HV WALE**
- As HV WEST except: 9.55am-10.00 HV News and weather (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm HV News (1230394) 1.25pm-1.30pm HV News (1230394) 2.30pm-2.35pm HV News (1230394) 3.40pm-3.45pm HV News (1230394) 4.30pm-4.35pm HV News (1230394) 5.10pm-5.15pm HV News (1230394) 5.40pm-5.45pm HV News (1230394) 6.30pm-6.35pm HV News (1230394) 7.30pm-7.35pm HV News (1230394) 8.30pm-8.35pm HV News (1230394) 9.30pm-9.35pm HV News (1230394) 10.30pm-10.35pm HV News (1230394) 11.30pm-11.35pm HV News (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm HV News (1230394)
- MERIDIAN**
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- WESTCOUNTRY**
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- YORKSHIRE**
- As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Yorkshire News and weather (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 1.25pm-1.30pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 2.30pm-2.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 3.40pm-3.45pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 4.30pm-4.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 5.10pm-5.15pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 5.40pm-5.45pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 6.30pm-6.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 7.30pm-7.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 8.30pm-8.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 9.30pm-9.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 10.30pm-10.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 11.30pm-11.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394) 12.30pm-12.35pm Yorkshire News (1230394)

- SKY ONE**
- 6.0

Crisis talks at Warburg over staff exodus

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DIRECTORS of SG Warburg, the crisis-stricken City investment bank, held an emergency board meeting yesterday to try to work out how to prevent the departure of some of its best staff.

The executive and non-executive directors are understood to have been attempting to identify staff the bank cannot afford to lose and to have made a variety of commitments to key staff, agreeing pay rises, additional bonuses and, in some cases, guaranteed bonuses.

The directors also discussed splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive. Lord Cairns, the chief executive, had intended to take on both roles with the retirement of Sir David Scholey, the chairman, in June.

The problems at Warburg have now become so severe that the Bank of England has asked to be kept informed of

developments. The difficulty for Warburg will be finding the extra cash to pay the bonuses. Last year was not a good one for investment banking. Warburg made a first-half loss on its trading activities and group profits crashed from £148.8 million to £62.5 million, the bulk of it coming from its 75 per cent-owned Mercury Asset Management subsidiary. City analysts are predicting full-year profits of about £148 million in the year to the end of March.

Warburg has the reputation of rewarding its staff well. In the year to March 31, 1994, its total staff costs were £469.9 million, or an average of £105,000 per person. Until the end of last year, Warburg was viewed as the City's most prestigious investment bank. But the since collapse of merger talks with Morgan Stanley, a US rival, in Decem-

ber, Warburg has been unable to convince staff that it is able to achieve its ambition to be a global investment bank alone.

The exodus at Warburg started last week when Morgan Grenfell, Deutsche Bank's investment bank, poached Maurice Thompson and Michael Cohrs, the joint heads of Warburg's 30-strong equity capital markets team. By the end of last week, eight of their team had joined them there, including one US-based director, David Miller.

Warburg's strength has always been in the quality of its corporate finance staff, and its high-quality research teams. However, this could also prove to be its great weakness.

Morgan Grenfell is busy building up a new equities operation in London. With Deutsche Bank's chequebook at its disposal, it is able to take the best individuals and teams from wherever it likes.

It is understood to have targeted other people at Warburg, and if they go their teams are likely to follow.

The collapse of talks with Morgan Stanley left Warburg looking vulnerable. It had publicly admitted it needed the help of its rival to achieve its global ambitions. It was put in the embarrassing position of attempting to convince staff that it has a strategy and explain what it is.

One insider said: "There has been a lot of dissatisfaction within the bank about the way it is being run and the publicity we have had."

One of Warburg's leading institutional investors said Warburg had to "stem the flow and that means making some public decisions in terms of strategy. Staff are unsettled. If you put your business into play and it does not come off, you have a problem. People expect things to happen, and to happen quickly. Warburg had signalled that it needed a partner."

The Warburg employees needed to know what sort of organisation they were working for, he added.

Warburg said of the hiring by Morgan Grenfell, "it has happened before in international banking and will happen again".



Lord Cairns, chief executive, who had intended to take on the role of chairman as well

Mystery over NU sale of City site

By LINDSAY COOK, BUSINESS EDITOR

NORWICH UNION was last night at the centre of a mystery over who bought one of its City properties in a £159 million deal. NU has been reducing its weighting in property for some time, after the collapse in the commercial property market. It was said to have sold Beaufort House to the Libyan Government, but a spokeswoman for Britain's third-largest life insurer said that there was a confidentiality clause on the deal.

"We never had confirmation as to who were the ultimate purchasers, and if we had, we would not be able to answer any questions about the purchaser," Norwich Union said.

NU had checked with the buyer's solicitors that the money was not from illegal sources, such as drug dealing, before going ahead. "We made sure that the money came through reputable

banks and that the source was legitimate," it said.

The spokeswoman said: "We do every deal on its own merits. I cannot say whether we would knowingly have sold to the Libyan Government. It would not have been illegal."

Norwich Union, which bought the 12-storey property on the City's eastern edge, at the top of the market in 1989, lost £48 million on the sale, to a Jersey company, which on the same day is said to have sold it on to an Isle of Man-registered group for £27 million more. The Isle of Man company is said to be a subsidiary of the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company, a Tripoli-based foreign investment vehicle for the Libyan Government.

The 1993 sale took place a few months before Britain froze all Libyan-owned assets in response to the Lockerbie bombing.

ASH in refinancing talks

By OUR CITY STAFF

AUTOMATED Security Holdings, the burglar alarm and security group, is in refinancing talks with its banks. To avoid a qualification in its accounts, the refinancing deadline is the end of March. ASH is believed to be seeking to roll over a £70 million

multi-option loan facility, as well as other loans.

Tom Buffett, chairman and chief executive, left last October and moved to Florida. He had been spending an increasing amount of time abroad, and the board was concerned it was becoming difficult for him to

carry out fully his management role. His five-year rolling contract entitled him to £1 million in compensation. Lord Lane of Horsell, moved from deputy chairman to succeed Mr Buffett as chairman, but ASH has so far been unable to find a new chief executive.

General Cable to proceed with listing

By ERIC REGULY

GENERAL CABLE, the sixth-largest cable operator, yesterday said it will proceed with its long-delayed effort to float on the London and Nasdaq Exchanges. The operator expects to sell about 70 million shares, raising £200 million.

Scheduled for the spring, the flotation will value the company between £600 million and £700 million. The shares will be split more or less equally between the British and American markets.

General Cable, owned by

Compagnie Générale des Eaux de France, had planned to float last May with an issue worth about £500 million. It cancelled the financing, citing poor market conditions.

David Miller, General Cable's finance director, said British investors now are more receptive to cable issues. "People understand cable in the UK better than they did last year," he said. "Just look at the interest in the TeleWest flotation."

TeleWest, one of the two largest cable companies, raised £1.8 billion in a joint

British-American flotation late last year. The issue of 216 million shares was three times oversubscribed.

TeleWest remains the only cable company with a London listing. The other listed companies, Bell Cablemedia, Comcast and International CableTel, trade on Nasdaq only. A fourth company, Videotron, recently announced it will seek a Nasdaq listing as well.

TeleWest and General Cable will not be alone in London. Bell Cablemedia, owned 14 per cent by Cable

and Wireless, wants a London listing by the summer. Nynex CableComms, owned by the Nynex phone company of New York, is expected to float in London as early as April.

Analysts said General Cable stands out because it has the strongest exposure to the potentially lucrative cable telephone market. It has more than 16,000 business phone lines and 110,000 residential phone lines.

British cable companies, unlike their American counterparts, legally can offer both telephone and video services.

TUC labels drive for new jobs a failure

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

The Government's drive for greater flexibility in the labour market has failed to produce new jobs, the Trades Union Congress says today. In a new study prepared for the United Nations' International Labour Organisation, the TUC says that government claims that the deregulation of the UK labour market has increased the level of employment are misleading and inaccurate.

The TUC's attack comes as ministers prepare to announce this week the unemployment figures. They hope the jobless

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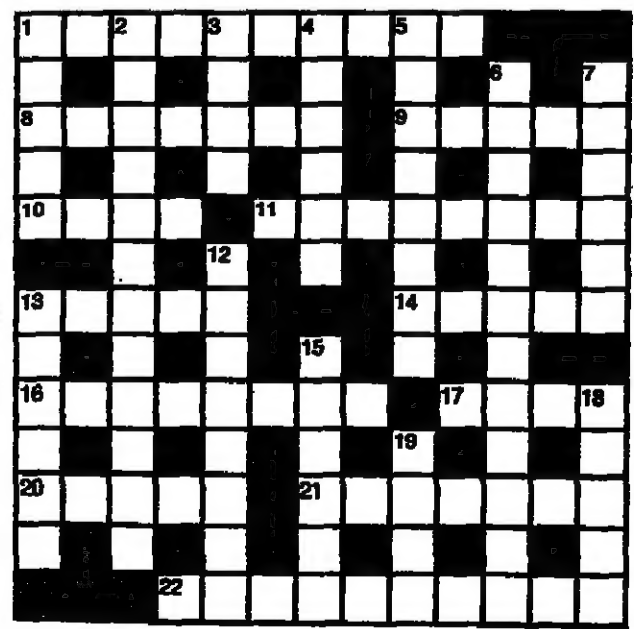
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 394

ACROSS

- 1 Old-fashioned person; earlier issue of paper (4,6)
- 8 Ring-shaped; type of eclipse (7)
- 9 Thick (5)
- 10 Sentimentally pretty (4)
- 11 Intrepid (8)
- 13 Bishop's headgear (5)
- 14 Dawdle, trifle (5)
- 16 Work done on wool with needles (8)
- 17 Layer of algae etc on pond (4)
- 20 Interior furnishing style (5)
- 21 Having an arched roof; jumped (7)
- 22 In general (2,3,5)

DOWN

- 1 Force of explosion (5)
- 2 Orchestra tuning standard (7,5)
- 3 Of no effect (4)
- 4 Something keeping one's place; type of pen (6)
- 5 Fabulous wealthy city (8)
- 6 One conducting conversation (12)
- 7 Meagre; having spotty disease (6)
- 12 Science fiction weapon (5-3)
- 13 Manage with inadequate resources (4,2)
- 15 Not level (6)
- 18 Tiny insect, swarms, may bite (5)
- 19 Draw; influence (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 393

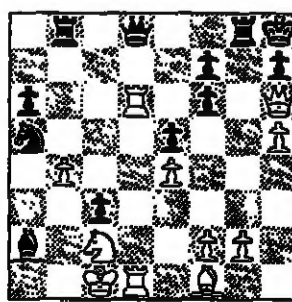
- ACROSS: 1 Buoyancy 7 Feral 8 To the life 9 Wag
10 Nigh 11 Listen 13 Gantry 14 Convey 17 Annals
18 Deaf 20 Bag 22 In the pink 23 Genus 24 Teenager
DOWN: 1 Baton 2 Octagon 3 Apex 4 Clinic 5 Drawn
6 Flighty 7 Festoon 12 Francis 13 Gambaige 15 Veering
16 Blithe 17 Agony 19 Fakir 21 Fern

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Feher - Priehoda, Budapest 1994. Brilliant tactical play can sometimes be seen in defence rather than attack and today's position is just such a case. White is threatened with ...Nb3 mate. What is his best move?

Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 6



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TENEBOURO

- a. The twilight
- b. Oscuro painting
- c. A type of painter

TOROID

- a. Like a bull
- b. Like a couch
- c. Like a torus

SHIATSU

- a. A martial art
- b. Alternative massage
- c. A paper partition

SECKO

- a. A type of tree lizard
- b. A pervers
- c. Balsamous resin

Answers on page 41